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A STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT, CHARACTERISTICS
AND USES OF
**OPEN PUBLIC SPACES IN ATHENS
FROM 1940 TO 2000**

A project submitted to Middlesex University
in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of
DOCTOR OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

JOHN N. TERZOGLU

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To Nicholas – lon

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**A STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT, CHARACTERISTICS AND USES OF
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FROM 1940 TO 2000**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a study of the development of Open Public Spaces of Athens, during the period 1940 – 2000.

At the end of the 20th Century, Athens and its Open Public Spaces present many problems concerning the city's environment, which have been accumulated over the past 60 years and have been aggravated due to unplanned expansions of the city and some unsuccessful interventions, by the State.

However, there are still many possibilities towards the amelioration of the city's and Public Spaces' conditions, especially through the large Public works which are necessary for the future.

In the Introduction, following the definition of some terms, some general issues related to Open Public Spaces are mentioned, such as functions, cultural activities, Character of the Open Public Space, as well as specific problems of the Athenian Open Public Spaces as insufficiency, street Furniture equipment, the Role of the State etc.

Moreover, there is a search for the Theoretical Approach and Methodology of the project, by the brief review of theories concerning Society and Public Space, and the development of Historiography.

The methodology proposed for this project is derived from the conclusions of the above search.

In Chapter 2, there is a brief review of the development of Athens' Open Public Spaces and urbanization, as most of today's Open Public Spaces originate from their first formation during the 19th and the first half of the 20th century.

In Chapter 3, Athenian Open Public Spaces are examined in relation to the political situation, spirit of the times, social structure and City's development of each one of the eight critical sub-periods to which the whole period under examination in this project, i.e. 1940-2000 is subdivided, according to specific political, economic and cultural factors and characteristics of each one.

Special attention has been paid to the presentation of large Public works and Open Public Spaces which will be executed in the near future and will contribute to the city's life.

In Chapter 4, three case studies are presented, concerning three significant Athenian Open Public Spaces Syntagma Square, Omonia Square and Pireos Street.

In these case studies each Public Space is examined more in depth and detail, in relation to its:

Structural and Functional dimension (e.g. Its location in the urban structure, relationships with the Urban environment, functions, circulation etc).

Semantic dimension (e.g. Significance and meaning to the city, historic development etc).

Structure of the Space (e.g. Topography, shape, elements, street furniture equipment etc).

In Chapter 5, an Assessment of the Athenian Open Public Spaces is attempted in relation to various issues, such as, the significance and the role of the Open Public Spaces in the city, the use and life of the Athenian Open Public Spaces, their allocation social role, forms materials used, street furniture equipment.

Other issues examined are, the monuments, green areas, the role of the State through the legislative Context, the character of Athenian Open Public Spaces as it has developed.

Chapter 5, concludes with a brief comparison between European and Athenian Open Public Spaces, the final Conclusions and Recommendations.

Finally in the Appendices, the European Union's directives concerning Architect's expected role in shaping the city's environment and Landscape.

Institute's educational policy is mentioned, as well as examples of Open Public Spaces formations by the Municipality of Athens and by the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works are presented.

1. INTRODUCTION

This project is a study of the Open Public Spaces of Athens, their development, characteristics, and perspective evolution, as they appear at the end of the 20th century.

The end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, is a landmark for the development of Athens' Open Public spaces.

Athens, despite having a history of almost 5.500 years, in its contemporary formation, is a "new" city of about 170 years. Through various historical events, which have affected the city's evolution, Athens has passed periods of glory and periods of decline, according to the political, social and economic context of each historic period.

The city of Athens is now in a transitional stage : On the one hand, the problems related to the city's functions and environment have been aggravated, due to the city's unstructured expansions throughout almost the entire Attica region and the same will be with the land uses, as for example the new Airport or the large public works required for the organization of the 2004 Olympic Games. On the other hand, these works provide a decisive opportunity for the reorganization and improvement of Open Public Spaces and the city's functions, on a large, medium and small scale.

Within this context, a general assessment of these spaces is absolutely necessary, in order to plan the appropriate interventions for the general amelioration of the space and quality of life.

1.1. Definition of Terms

This project concerns the development of Open Public Spaces of Athens over the last sixty years.

Public Spaces, can be distinguished in Open Public Spaces and enclosed Public Spaces.

As Open Public Spaces, we characterize the natural or artificial, open places of the Urban Space, which are located outside the privacy of residential areas. These spaces are used by the community for social contact and activities. (Unesco, 1972)

Open Public Space is related to the Community, the identity of the public, the participation in public affairs, sociability, communication with others and common matters with other people. It functions as a symbolic expression and a medium of Common Consciousness.

Open Public Space is offered for public use by the residents of a town or a settlement. It contains spaces and functions of common services, such as spaces for pedestrians' or vehicles' circulation, points of stay and rest, services' networks etc. Moreover, Public Spaces contain the notion of belonging to the people, the public, or the community. Public Space has the possibility to express the individual character of the community or the society, which lives and functions in conjunction to that Space.

Every Open Space, natural or artificial, in which a permanent or occasional, organized or spontaneous, social, communal, public manifestation, expression, or social activity takes place, can be characterized as Open Public Space. In this way, the spaces in front of a city's Town Hall, the space of an ancient theater, or the mall on the waterfront of an island town etc, can be called Open Public Space.

During the historic evolution of the cities, various Spaces, which under a typological classification could be thought of belonging to the private sector, as for example palaces from the Minoan era to the Renaissance, held many characteristics of Public Space. On the contrary, in many cases Public Spaces such as streets, minor road enlargements etc., in traditional towns and rural settlements, have often been occupied for private use. (Fletcher, 1963)

Open Spaces among buildings, that compose spaces of activity, circulation, meeting, gathering and communication, are the architectural expression of the Community and its Common Identity. In the management of Urban Space, Open Public Space holds a notable position, as it composes a symbol of the relevant district or settlement. Open Public Space reflects the lifestyle, and the behavior of the particular society, the governing relationships, its culture (morals, manners and customs, traditions, cultural values etc) and its specific administrative organization.

Open Public Spaces can be distinguished, according to their dominant function and character, into secular and religious spaces. However, the coexistence of these two functions is common in traditional Public Spaces. (Benevolo 1997)

The City's Open Spaces can be categorized into two groups :

1. The Open Public Spaces such as roads, squares, pedestrian pathways, consist a functional network, which is the axis of city life.
2. Green Open Spaces, which are separated into
 - Urban Green Spaces,
 - Green Spaces and Landscapes surrounding the city.

This network penetrates into the residential areas, where public and private life begin to intermingle and social life is relatively less complicated.

As Open Public Space approaches the center of the city, its character is gradually enriched with functions of common use and of greater variety. In the center of the city, Open Public Space contains functions which express the economic, social and ideological structure of the city, of that specific period and its particular economic and social context.

Another basic distinction is between "Space" and "Place".

Space as an abstract meaning, does not possess a character or a specific identity.

The presence of man and his activities distinguishes the space by completing it with man – made forms, functions, sentiments, symbols, meanings and converts the space into a Place.

With the passing of time, a place acquires and then develops its own identity, character, image and physiognomy, (Stefanou, 2001) according to functions, historic events, social and economic activities etc, and their evolution over a period of time.

In the Greek language the term for Place is Topos, which is the root for the English words topic, topography, topology, toponymy etc. In Mathematics, Locus is the set of all points satisfying an equation of relation, in accordance to certain stated conditions.

The architectural concept of Place introduces the idea that a Place is unique, a space of particular qualities, with perceivable differences from any other Place. In summary, Space is a general spatial condition. Place is particular, shared and memorable, (Johnson, 1994) whereas Landscape is the image – perception, revealing the entity of characteristics of a natural or artificial place.

The notion that a place is inhabited by a guardian spirit, was derived from Roman beliefs and has led to the concept of the “Spirit of the Place” or “Genius Loci”. However, as architectural concept, the “sense of place” and the “spirit of place” is relatively recent. (Norbert – Schulz 1980, Lynch, 1993).

Open Public Spaces of a city are particular, shaped under specific conditions, each one having a unique spatial identity, thus composing Places.

“Meaning is the basic human need and the purpose of architecture is to make meanings manifest as a concrete system of places, paths and domains” (Norbert – Schulz 1975).

The contemporary reference to the entity and character of an Open Public Space, is a reference not to the abstract space or area that it occupies, but to the whole set of meanings related to it. As referred for the first time to Plato’s Timaios and recently studied by J. Derrida, Khora = Space + Reason + Myth. (Derrida, 2000).

Every reference to the Open Public Spaces, i.e., to urban parks, squares, roads, etc, incorporates the main relationship between the City and the Natural elements.

In fact, we cannot think about our Civilization without considering its natural background and also we cannot think of nature without the impact of civilization on it. This is the relationship between the artifact or building structure and the natural environment, as it develops inside and around the cities. (Terzoglou, 1992).

Problems rise from the conditions and techniques used to control this relationship, as well as its functional significance and its formations in the present and in future.

Landscape Architecture attempts to reorganize areas of land and Open Public Spaces, in order to develop a new and better use for them. This reformation has also social and cultural aspects. As the historic examples indicate, all these efforts for improvement, result into changes in the perceptive image of the space for its residents.

The artificial object as well as Nature, are examined in the same cultural process, in which non controlled “wild” nature is transformed into a culturally controlled environment.

Landscape is the outward form of the earth’s appearance.

Landscape always refers to the natural environment. Most probably the word

“Landscape” comes from the Dutch word “landscap” that expresses the artistic works of 17th century Dutch painters. In this art movement nature was the main theme, as it was a point of reference and aspiration of the urban societies of that time.

Landscape is a meaning that differs, according to the ways of perception that are applied. It is a site of outstanding beauty that man comprehends in a certain way, or tries to transform, according to his needs or desire.

The actions applied for this procedure, combine science, technology and art, thus revealing the different aspects of its conception, and the diverse socio-economic conditions and cultures.

Early cultures animated landscape, and Earth was the “primeval mother” who had to be honoured with sacrifice and ritual. For thousands of years landscape was perceived as an all – embracing external space. All permanent interventions into the Landscape were for agricultural or transport purposes. Aesthetically designed Landscapes were limited to zones near residences, courtyards and Palaces.

“Today Landscape is examined scientifically ... and described in its interlacements. Landscape today is no longer just natural Landscape, many landscapes are superimposed upon each other : city Landscapes, grassy Landscapes, industrial Landscapes, psychic Landscapes, refuse Landscapes, traffic Landscapes, artificial Landscapes, fantasy Landscapes, advertising Landscapes, film Landscapes, residential Landscapes, sport Landscapes, pleasure Landscapes, Computer Landscapes, tourist Landscapes”.

“The contrast between urban Landscape and natural Landscape is blurred today, there are hardly any borders left. Everything is town, everything landscape”. (Schaal 1994)

Open Public Spaces consist a separate category of land uses in the city. They can be distinguished as follows :

- Squares
- Streets and roads
- Open spaces for assemblies, rallies, reunions, celebrations, festivities, parades, promenades.
- Markets

- Hills and other ground risings , as elements of the Natural environment, that are exploited for public use.
- Athletic installations, playgrounds, spaces for athletic events and meetings.
- Archaeological parks, viewed as urban units, that are made accessible to the public.
- Archaeological sites and Monuments.
- Zoological and Botanical gardens.
- Water surfaces, artificial or natural lakes, biotopes, coastal zones.
- Green areas available for common use, such as public gardens, parks, groves, alleys, green islands. (Aravantinos, 1997).

Traditionally, the squares were the result of accumulation of uses and purposes over centuries; with constant modifications of their physical elements, while modern spaces are designed and constructed in short time. (Cerver 1997).

Traditional squares were identified with a purpose, as serving as a place of commerce or displaying political power, while contemporary squares often have no specific purpose than to provide a pleasant meeting place.

For instance, Markets, open or covered, were and still are, substantial functions of these places and one of the basic reasons for their original creation “... *like other original components of the city, the market may exist as a separate entity, without bringing into existence more than temporary shelters...*”

“... *More important, in the long run, than the wider distribution of the goods in the market, was the wider communication system that grew up along with it*” (Mumford 1961).

The common element in all cases, is the desire to create places where people can gather, contact others, and enjoy themselves.

Streets were traditionally connected with movement and transport and through them, with communication and exchange. They provided continuity and access to the public realm.

Green areas are connected with man's relationships with nature and had always strong influence on him, with their aesthetic variety of shapes, sizes, colors and climatic conditions they create and they are strong elements in designing Open Public Spaces.

With the city conditions of life nowadays, created by extensive automobile traffic, the streets have lost their communicative possibilities, and the only possibility to improve the city's conditions is by creating pedestrian areas and by giving priority to individuals, i.e. by regaining civic control of Public spaces.

The Green areas and Open Public Spaces of the city can be categorized according to their use, size, role in the city, area to which they refer to, etc. They are areas of play, recreation, collective memory, leisure time, contact with nature, social interaction, Public activities, communication.

1.2 Aims and objectives

This project concerns the “Study of the Development, Characteristics and Uses of Open Public Spaces in Athens from 1940 to 2000”.

The project has two general approaches :

- Theoretical, as Open Public Space is relevant to the Historic Development of Society, Economy, Political issues, Culture, City planning, etc., needing research and references to these fields.
- Practical, as it is related to the design Problems of Landscape Architecture, functions, forms, materials etc.

Each of the above mentioned fields holds significant importance, and could be investigated in depth, each consisting an entire project itself. In this study they are quoted to the extent of their contribution to the aims of the project.

In this project, it would be more interesting and integrated, if it would be attempted that the two general approaches could be combined into a study describing the various aspects of Open Public Spaces of Athens, as they have developed during the period 1940-2000.

1.3. Public Spaces in general

Cities are the results of the economic, social and technical factors of each era. They are affected by the changes and development of these factors of civilization.

"... the archaic village culture yielded to urban "civilization", that peculiar combination of creativity and control, of expression and repression, of tension and release, whose outward manifestation has been the historic city". (Munford 1961). The Open Public Spaces of cities are very important for the residents, as they are the spaces in which every activity outside home, takes place.

In this way, the quality of a city's Open Public Spaces, affect our everyday life by providing a possibly effective, pleasant, healthy and spacious environment for our activities, transportation, common social life, recreation, social interaction etc. (Nicolaidou, 1993).

The city is an expression of a general social process in space. It can be considered as a functional "whole", every part of which is related to other parts, as well as, every Open Public Space is related to other Open Public Spaces in the city, and also to other areas like residential commercial or industrial areas.

The Open Public Spaces of every city can be examined separately. However, they also form a whole, an organization, or system, with interacting parts. Open Public spaces are the "void" and "active" part of a city, in contrast to the buildings, which are the "volume" and "stable" parts. *"Moving elements in a city, and in particular the people and their activities, are as important as the stationary, physical parts"*. (Lynch 1993).

These spaces, e.g., roads, places, squares etc. are subject to continuous change and development, as they are spaces in which the social, economic and cultural conditions of each society take place.

Moreover, every Open Public Space organizes and reflects influencing factors and facilitates or prevents communication. Privacy and sociability are both related to communication, by reducing or increasing it. Moreover, the purpose of Open Public Space is the organization and structuring of this communication.

In traditional communities, the environment of an Open Public Space is recognizable, and the communication among its members is direct. In contemporary Urban environment, Public Spaces of social contact are becoming more and more specialized through complicated code systems. (Nicolaidou, 1994).

The way of spending leisure time and certain features of the collective behaviour of specific society, impact the type and form of these spaces. For example, in Greece, the Open Public Spaces outweigh the covered ones, due to the climate conditions and the traditional tendency for living in the open air.

As Open Public Spaces are interconnected with a large number of factors that interfere with the shaping of the city's environment, they provide a great number of topics for study, which should be investigated.

Every Open Public Space is shaped with structural elements (e.g. buildings) in a certain relationship to the natural environment.

Its constructed part and its organization, contain elements of sophisticated intervention for the servicing of certain needs of the society.

The study of the man-made part of Open Public Space should take into consideration the objective truth of its relativity and not always presume that the same functions and significances permanently exist in time and space. The human behaviour in these spaces is also a subject of study, (Kondaratos, 1983) aiming to the improvement of its organization by using items such as personal space, proximities, territoriality, (Hall, 1969) psychological and cultural factors etc. (Moles and Rohmer, 1972).

Public Space is not a mere reflection of the social structure. This is due to Authorities' interventions, that stem from the relative independence of the "designers" of that space and the special circumstances and socio-economic parameters under which the Open Public Space has been produced.

The development of Open Public Spaces evolves through various procedures, interferences and dialectic relationships that are based on the given data of the social infrastructure and ideological superstructure. (Despotopoulos, 1997).

Consequently, the distinctive historical and geographical conditions as well as the ideological and social context should also be investigated.

In fact, every Public Space is the result of continuous impacts from a range of social, economic, historical and technological factors and of decisions made by authorities, regarding the natural or artificial space. The Individualistic Theories notice the prime role of the individual's personality, while the Environmentalistic and Behaviouristic Theories, consider the environment as the determinative factor in these

relationships. (Canter 1988).

These impacts create a gradual alteration on the Landscape, transforming it from natural to urban, with diverse gradations of interposition on nature. The question is, how the entity of man and natural environment is converted into a social environment, by shaping and imposing a new social reality.

"To interpret what happened in the city, one must deal equally with techniques, politics and religion..." (Munford 1961).

Public Space also expresses the level of productive potential and the level of Technique, Technology and dominating Culture. Through them, it reflects the socio-economic structure of the society and also the historic conditions within which it has been produced. (Norbert – Schulz, 1975). In order to have civilization in the city, the quality of space must be a continuous process, a summation of separate civilizations which will build in the qualities of the city's Urban fabric. In this Urban Fabric, spaces of production, education, welfare, recreation and civilization should be embodied, as well as functions of local, broader or global significance. In this Urban Fabric, the past, present and future, as well as nature and technology, must coexist.

As time passes, Open Public Space becomes the vehicle of Collective Memory and is interrelated with the common consciousness of the city. (Boyer, 1998).

The concept of the city has begun to change. It is apparent, that the expansion of today's metropolitan areas is so great, that they are becoming highly complex social organisms, vast areas of urban development, encompassing cities, towns and metropolitan areas, all evolving into one interdependent area.

The problems of urban areas today, are of increasing scope and complexity, that demand new relationships between all the relevant parts. (Weaver, 1966).

In the post - War era, the exaggerated size increase of contemporary cities determined the alteration of their urban fabric, which acquired a multi – functional and multi – centered character. This led to the deterioration of life of inferior social classes and consequently to their social exclusion.

Since the middle of 20th century the subject of World Urbanization and its related problems has acquired tremendous dimensions. As estimated in 2010, 80% of the world

population will live in Cities. (Habitat Agenda, 1996). The awareness of the seriousness of these problems, initiated reference the reaction of the World Society with the organization, among others, of the first United Nations' World Conference in 1976 in Vancouver, called Habitat.

This Conference developed an action plan aiming to push forward a controlled development of cities and towns throughout the world. Twenty years on, in 1996, in Constantinople, the second World Conference of the United Nations for the Human Settlements (Habitat II) took place.

The Conference had two objectives :

- the reduction of the factors that create bad living conditions and functions in human settlements and the attempts for development, in order to achieve provision for healthy, safe, equal and sustainable living conditions in these settlements.
- the approval of a set of principles that will lead to national and international efforts over the next twenty years.

Among others, the Declaration of Constantinople refers to the :

- Improvement of the living conditions of settlements and cities, in ways compatible to local needs and priorities and in recognition of the necessity to face world economic social, and environmental trends, which will permit the creation of a better environment for all inhabitants.
- Encourage the conservation, of buildings, monuments, open spaces, Landscapes and settlements with historic, cultural, architectural, physical, religious or mental value.

The needs of Contemporary Urban Centers for Open and Green Spaces, are increasing. Their lack and insufficiency is one of the major factors of environmental problems of the cities. (Habitat Agenda, 1996).

The Declaration ends with the thought that we have reached a new era of cultural development and solidarity that needs systematic collaboration and support.

At the end of the 20th century, Habitat II offered a positive vision for sustainable settlements with hopes for our common future.

The future of cities is closely connected to the conservation and improvement of the social life as well as the ecological quality of life.

In recent years, in many densely populated residential areas, we experience a sort of "Park Renaissance" as a strategic element of the structural changes and adaptation to contemporary needs. The construction of large parks is progressing in many European cities. This is the result of different priorities and new strategies, that aim for the modernization of spatial structures.

It seems that the contemporary economic evolution programme is oriented towards soft manipulations of some other subjects, which are considered of great significance today.

Initiatives, made by Communities and citizens, associations for the conservation of the environment, and ecological parties, turned the ecology problem into a political one, even on a local level. Void, non utilized spaces, ex-industrial and ex- transportation areas, have been reformed in to Open Public Spaces. Some examples are, the Grungurter in Frankfurt, the New Danube in Vienna, the North and South Park in Milan, the Colserola in Barcelona, the park of La Villette in Paris etc.

The definition of Open Public Spaces as a city's infrastructure, as a distinctive and aesthetic structure, and as a functional network for provisions and sanitation, is not a new idea. In the 18th century, parks, alleys and promenades, green areas and irrigating systems, were used in the formation of royal capitals.

Today, a new vision of the Open Spaces is elaborated : a large scale Landscape reconstruction of great future importance, Urban Open Spaces for rest and recreation, in ecologically acceptable formations and high aesthetic quality.

Moreover, since 1989 the evolution of ex-Communist Eastern economies, caused waves of immigrants to enter in developed European Countries, with unexpected impacts on economic, social and cultural life of these societies.

On the other hand, the evolution of technology in general, and the development of information technology, not only caused a revolution in the field of communications, but also changed the form of the World, from what it was 10 or 15 years ago.

The industrial era is at its close and its place is taken by a new technological civilization. This civilization is producing unknown changes, not only in production processes and working relationships, but also in every day life and human interaction.

Contemporary urban space is characterized by increased mobility.

Nowadays, human communication is more audiovisual, fragmentary and incidental. Social control is limited and based on rules and not on traditional manners and customs, which in the space of the city have lost their importance.

The Open Public Space of the city is not a space of arguments and juxtapositions any more. The Public Space has been partially transferred to other spaces, and the social reality is expressed by other means, while the exchanges are passing through other channels. In today's technological reality, information acquires a major significance.

All these factors are causing new conditions on a political, economic, social and human level and are creating new needs and new demands on Urban Space. We are living in the era of the Internet and of the second capitalistic revolution, where cities are poles of a political, economic and information network, spread over the whole world. This creates a globalization of economy and information, the responsibility of which has been undertaken by multi – national companies, large consortiums, industrial and credit Organizations which also influence the development of large city regions. (Canary Wharf, Docklands etc).

However, the social appropriation of open spaces, is in the center of the design problem : it involves a long term and comprehensive strategy, as well as original proposals of specific items of Landscape formation. Historical models, local traditions, affecting the formation of Urban Open Spaces and specific social demands, must be part of a synthetic subject, that requires the collaboration of Architects, Landscape Architects, Artists, Urban designers, Civil Engineers and Sociologists. The rehabilitation of ex-industrial areas in general, requires a new approach to space formation that must involve all "Arts of Space".

The increase of leisure time, auto mobilization, slackness of traditional family roles, and the different ways of spending recreation time though means such as mass tourism and electronic media, have completely changed the requirements of a city's recreational spaces.

Nowadays, Landscape increasingly penetrates into the European metropolis, thus creating a new type of multi – centered suburban space :

The boundaries and border areas between residential areas and open space, acquire a special meaning.

- Socially, as appropriate urban areas for gardens, green areas etc.
- Aesthetically, as significant border areas between the city and nature.
- Ecologically, as spaces that provide a balance for heavily populated and high density areas.

On the other hand, an increasing sensitivity towards the destruction of the natural environment led to a nostalgia for wild nature and harmony.

In this pluralism of desires and life formations of the post industrial society, a number of trends correspond to the design of open spaces.

An interesting question would be, whether it is possible for a society to invent a new composition of different social, aesthetic and ecological requirements and needs, for its own Open Public Spaces.

In contemporary approaches, Open Public Space is not considered as a void, but as a space full of memories, activities, and experiences, formed by life, civilization or social, economic and ecological conditions. (Dauvergne 1997).

They are public, urban spaces which include an integrated image of the city, urban Landscape, or cityscape.

Landscape Architecture is a conscious intervention into urban, rural, or physical space, that considers all influencing factors.

Landscape Architecture develops towards an activity that attempts to solve problems related to Landscape, with knowledge of physical space, ecology, cultural and social conditions, *"To an engagement with the ever more pressing and distinctly urban problems that accompanied industrialization"*. (Beardsley, 1989).

The limited possibilities of choices by an individual, concerning his professional activities, shelter conditions, transportation, leisure time, etc, create feelings of isolation that decrease his adaptation and participation in the city's functions. (Mitscherlich, 1969).

In today's city conditions, the communicative relationships between the individual and other people and social groups, are superficial and do not assist his adaptation to the new living conditions of city life. (Mitscherlich, 1969).

In many cases today, Open Public Space seems to be an unfamiliar, inhospitable and hostile space. The question arising, is how this space has been organized and converted from a space of development and evolution of human creativity, in other words a space of freedom, into a space of alienation and estrangement. The Urban phenomenon as a way of life, is determinative for the social organization of Public Space. (Nicolaidou, 1993).

However, Open Public Spaces consist the cohesive substance of Urban Space. The geometry, syntax, the formation and outfit of streets, squares and other Open Spaces, constitute a distinctive object of interpretation and compositional intervention and also a context in which the architecture of separate buildings is being organized and coordinated with the rest.

1.3.1. Open Public Spaces and cultural activities.

A relative perception of Culture would be of a totality of the particularities, which characterize the spiritual, artistic, ethical and material life of a Society comprising knowledge, beliefs, Art, technology morals, law customs, etc., which man has acquired as a member of a society. (Unesco, 1972).

“... the most precious collective invention of civilization, the city, second only to language itself in the transmission of culture, became from the outset the container of disruptive internal forces...”.

“each historic civilization, begins with a living urban core, the polis...”
(Mumford 1961).

Since the ancient Greek cities Open Public Space is, among others, related to cultural activities and to leisure time.

“The Agora was laid out deliberately to serve alike as market, as place of assembly and as festival place”.

“This social function of the open place has persisted in the Latin countries : plaza, campo, piazza, grand' place, descend directly from the agora; for it is in the open place,

with its surroundings cafés and restaurants, the spontaneous and face – to – face meetings, conversations, encounters and flirtations take place, unformalized even when habitual” (Mumford 1961).

Leisure time can be considered to be the “remaining” free time, from other activities, but also an important element of the quality of life, and a target of most human activities.

Leisure time is sometimes confused with amusement, while time is divided into working time and free time.

New working conditions, as well as increased transportation time, self employment, second home jobs etc, have often a negative impact on leisure time, by restricting it.

Free time did not always have the same meaning in various social categories, historic periods or cultures.

A relationship does exist between space and time, but there is no direct correlation between free time and open public spaces.

Space assists or prevents the social activities which have been displayed, but it does not solely create social activities.

According to H. Lefebvre, “ *space consists simultaneously a social product and a place of reproduction of social relations*”. (Defner, 1992).

In Open Public Spaces the significant issues are both the contents of those spaces, i.e. their built and natural elements, and the activities taking place into them.

A factor which indicates the interdependency between space and time, is Mobility. Mobility has two aspects: the one is the expression of life in the Open Space and the other is the run for various activities.

Everyday movements have a special significance as they interrupt the homogeneity of space and provide dynamism to it.

The interrelationship of space and time, leads to leisure spaces. It especially leads to the relationship between leisure and Open Public Spaces, i.e., how a part of “free” time is realized in Open Public Space in a collective framework, determined by socioeconomic restrictions through human activity.

In history, most cities are determined in relation to their Public Spaces. (Rapoport, 1976). The majority of activities concerning amusement, culture, communication and contact, take place in Open Public Space. The role of Open Public Spaces in the city, has been rediscovered by some of the distinguished post Modern architects (A. Rossi, R. Krier, C. Rowe).

Related to Cultural role of Open Public Space are the Monuments.

Any man-made creation, building, sculpture or place, which is a vehicle of historic memory, can be defined as Monument. For the user, (inhabitant or visitor) the Monument operates on two levels:

- On the first level, the user attempts to understand the city's history through its Monuments.
- On the second level, the presence of Monuments helps the user to recognize the city in its entirety, as well as in small scale, as he distinguishes the specific district from its characteristic monuments.

Moreover, the Monuments' presence in every day life evolves the sense of historicism and particularity of space. The significance of a Monument varies according to its "Monumental nature" and its "Ideological load".

The distinction between Private Space and Public Space, can be conducted according to their properties or functions. The boundaries between private and public space are not always clear, as the same space can have a private or a public organization.

Privacy is usually defined by closed forms which give the impression of isolation, security, protection, etc, while publicity is more appropriately expressed by open forms.

The distinction between Public and Private was not explicit in all cultures, but is unavoidably obvious in industrial societies.

According to L. Halprin, the collective perception of cities is dependant on the Landscape of Open Spaces'. (Halprin, 1963).

It has been noted that a constant commercialization of space coexists with the commercialization of time, culture, and recreation, and is associated with the privatization of recreation, which leads to the abolition of Public Space. On the other hand, the dissolution of common identity, promoted mostly by television, develops a world – wide

identity of communicative rationality.

The characteristics of the city center as a recreational area, are not determined by the specific kind of amusement, or the built or open space, but by the choice of consumption, the multiformity of social life and the possibility for the unforeseen items.

According to Castells, (Castells, 1977), the issue of centricity becomes a topic of argument, because it composes the concentrated summary of an urban structure and its ideological dematerialization.

1.3.2. The “Character” of the Open Public Space.

Every city represents a way of life and is represented in its Public Spaces. There is no Town or Public Space similar to any other. Each one has its own particularity.

Open Public Spaces compose a continuous network, a fabric which includes spaces of mobility and spaces for rest and recreation, which are interrelated.

However, for methodological reasons, we can consider certain parts of this network with relatively integrated and clear functional and structural characteristics, in order to examine their special character, in the specific historical period.

Open Public Spaces are diversified by a number of factors which are related to the way of their production, historical development, relationships to other city's special, space's features etc., that provide their particular character.

What makes an Open Public Space particular i.e. a recognizable entity, is an entirety of perceivable characteristics, features and qualities, although these are not stable, being subjects to change.

Open Public Spaces which have an intense and distinctive character, are products of homogeneous and cohesive social groups in the context of a particular area and under specific historical, economic and cultural conditions.

The term “Identity” refers to the totality of distinctive characteristics of a space or place. Identity is related to inalterable substance of an Open Public Space, which expresses its particular traits or its “personality”. (Unesco 1972)

Space's identity conveys the identity of social groups related to it.

The term "Character" is relevant to identity, but it has a more dynamic and changeable meaning and refers to a composition of partial characteristic features.

The character of a Space is also related to the "Spirit of Place" (*Genius Loci*), (Norbert – Schulz 1980), which expresses Community's or residents' ideology, thoughts and aspects, as they have been set out on elements and forms of the Space (Terzoglou 1992). The difficulty for the determination and description of a particular space's character is due to the complicated relationships of its elements, and the variety of undertones of them, which make the classification problematic.

The character of an Open Public Space is determined by a totality of material features perceivable as the "exterior limit" of a number of meanings formulated by various historical, social, political and economic factors. The influence of such factors through needs and choices, create the "Cultural Landscapes", with distinctive and recognizable characteristics.

The exchange and mingling with elements of other cultures has also a significant role in the formulation of Cultural Landscapes' character.

Related to the above mentioned issues, is the meaning of "Order" or "Style", referring to certain elements of an Open Public Space as an expression of the spirit of the times of a certain period. Style is distinguished from taste of fashion which are referring to temporary to temporary and superficial elements.

As far as steadiness is concerned, the character of the space can be distinguished in :

- a. Permanent, lasting or stable character.
- b. Ephemeral, fleeting or unstable character.

There is also a fundamental difference between Landscape Architecture as "Nature", i.e., as an earthy creation, adapted to the ground, climate, and using its materials and Landscape Architecture as "Artifact", i.e. as a man-made creation, a work of art or technology (fournikiotis 2000).

“Natural” character of Public Space corresponds to functional requirements with rationality and is adapted to the environment, follows the logic of nature and yields to place’s elements and traditional construction and man’s social and cultural continuity in the place.

The Public Space as an “Artifact” is intervening to its environment by disrupting its historical and natural continuity.

The character of a Space is formulated not only by its spatial characteristics, but also by a number of other factors such as smells, sounds, musics, touches, tastes, etc, i.e., whatever is related to other senses except vision.

These factors determine the total impression and contribute to the perception of its character.

The Perception of space is not only spatial or social, but undividedly socio – spatial. Thus, our mental representations are compositions of space and social relationships (Hillier and Hanson 1993).

For every science related to Space-referring human action, a Space’s classification is necessary. Open Public Spaces are distinguished and classified on the basis of four sets of interrelated attitudes:

1. Activities appearing in a space and reasons of their occurrence.
2. Appreciative conceptions related to these activities
3. Natural space’s attributes related to these activities.
4. Sentiments caused by a space to persons using it.

Research directions, in the context of Environmental Psychology, can be categorized on the basis of three main interactions between man and environment :

- a. Orientation, referring to procedures, through which man perceives where he is, foresees what would happen and decides what to do.
- b. Function, referring to procedures, through which man acts upon the environment and respectively is influenced by it.
- c. Appreciation, containing estimations on how effective a man’s action can be in the environment, for the attainment of certain aims, and also to what extent this environment is adequate for his activity and future aims. (Canter 1988).

Built Environment and consequently Open Public Space, is a complicate set of natural, social, cultural and other variable factors. These factors arise a variety of systems of mental conception of the environment.

The character of Open Public Space mainly refers to :

- natural permanent characteristics,
as topography, Landscape, climate, ground etc.
- natural semi – permanent characteristics,
as plantation, weather, light etc.
- natural occasional characteristics,
sounds, storms, winds, fauna etc.
- artificial permanent characteristics,
as geometrical characteristics, scale of sizes, proportions, structure, complexity, relationships with natural environment, relationships with other city spaces, boundaries etc.
- artificial semi – permanent or ephemeral characteristics
as plantation, signs, advertisements, posters, space equipment, etc.
- occasional man – made artificial elements, derived from man’s activities
as people’s movement, sounds, noises, smells, artificial lighting etc.

Natural permanent, man – made permanent and semi – permanent elements, consist the totality of elements that compose the character of the Space. If the natural occasional and man – made occasional elements are added to above mentioned, the result is a total formulation of characteristics which is called “atmosphere” of the space. (Rapoport 1993).

“Atmosphere” is more unstable and occasional notion than Character, as it comprises many elements that are perceivable intuitively.

Any description or representation of the Space composes the “Image” or the “Physiognomy” of the Space in the specific historical period.

Meanings such as Identity, Character, Atmosphere, Image, Physiognomy of Space are very useful for the investigation of Open Public Spaces and their description.

The assessment of Open Public Space is attempted with descriptions and people's reactions in spaces from which they have experiences. Open Public Spaces consist common aspects of consciousness. They are components of our perceptual systems.

The differentiated reactions by various persons, according to their experiential structure, has to be noted. These reactions are also depending on their ability to recognize relationships between space's elements and their interpretation (Mazis 1979).

The "satisfaction" derived from the space, is a basic notion for the creation of rules or patterns of comfortable and pleasant living conditions.

The assessment of Open Public Spaces' Character can be made through a number of factors expressed by attributes and their opposites, related to :

- Aesthetics and "Good Form"
as beautiful, good, attractive, expressive, original, impressive, fascinating, interesting, optimistic etc.
- Familiarity
as familiar, sympathetic, civilized, hospitable etc.
- Organization and Coherence.
as organized, tidy, coordinated, cohesive, effective, regulated ordered, etc.
- Complexity of form – clarity
as complex, plain explicit, understandable, simple, distinct, bold etc.
- Strength of form and activities
as strong, dynamic, rough, imposing, heavy, stable, permanent etc.
- Capacity
as spacious, variable, large, broad, empty etc.
- Ornament and equipment
as decorated, equipped, pompous, showy, fancy, outfitted, rich, etc
- Colours
as colourful, glaring, bright, brilliant, shining, liquid etc.
- Cleanliness
as clean, neat, tidy, fair, etc.
- Size, scale
as big, large, voluminous, huge, immense, vast, grand, magnificent, grandiose etc.

- Novelty
as original, innovative, modernistic, contemporary, etc.
- Privacy
as private, public, isolated, protected etc.
- Formality
as formal, state, authentic, solemn, free, imposing etc.
- Time
as permanent, ephemeral, temporary, eternal, everlasting, etc.
- Cultural values
as true, false, kitsch, etc.
- Climate
as pleasant, warm, humid, airy etc.
- Comfort
as comfortable etc.
- Lighting
as sunny, bright, shady etc.
- Form
as geometric, elaborated, smooth, fine, symmetrical, etc.
- Usefulness
as useful, handy, etc.
- Formality of use
as public, daily, quotidian etc..
- Texture
as soft, fragile, rough, delicate etc.

Combinations of these appreciation's criteria can describe the character of the Open Public Space.

The change of the character of a Open Public Space is an expression of time, and is presented as :

- change of functions, related to change of society's needs
- change of Public's behaviour.

Moreover, the change of Open Public Space's character, can be distinguished in :

- Qualitative,
caused by technological or functional changes, not altering the space's boundaries.
- Quantitative,
caused by new needs, altering the Space's boundaries (Terzoglou 1992).

1.4. Athens' Public Spaces in General

This report deals with the Development of Public Spaces of Athens over the last 60 years, aiming to contribute to the understanding of the conditions, in which Spaces have been produced and derived during this period.

The project intends to examine the situation of Public Spaces of Athens today, their role in shaping the cityscape and its importance to everyday life.

Examining the historical evolution of Public Spaces, it is apparent that the interventions of man on Nature, which is the subject of Landscape Architecture, has been changed according to the political, social, technical, and economic conditions of each historical period.

City life today in Athens, is affected on the one hand by new characteristics on a political, economic, social level and on the other, on the technological – communication level.

New conditions and needs, produced by the above factors, change the cityscape and the way we perceive the city environment, the urban and landscape design.

As Architecture and Landscape Design have to correspond to society's needs and development, the vision and thinking of architects and designers, also have to change.

The situation of Athens is determined by two issues : The economic development of the Greek capital is more closely related to its political role, in other words to the concentration of activities produced by the presence of the State, than to its geographic position, or its natural resources.

Besides, historically Athens has been a creation of the idea of nation. Later on, the city of the 19th century developed, as the commercial and industrial functions have been added to the initial political and military functions. (Burgel, 1976).

In Athens, the urban scenery has been considerably changed by the demolition and reconstruction of residential areas. Today's Urban Landscape shows the maltreatment of space, although its lengthy historic background is still obvious in some elements of urban environment, as in the city's location and layout, the topography, its urban tissue and monuments, and the relationship between the city and its natural Landscape.

The reconstruction of Greek cities' residential areas was determined by the economic and social needs of the post War era. It held a Modern influence in its architectural approach, which combined with the allowance of vast building volume, essentially destroyed the cities' small scale human environment, along with the specific architectural character of each city.

The characteristics of today's urban development are the expansion of the city towards the surrounding spaces, agrarian or simply natural.

In Athens, Open Public Spaces are very few and only some of them can be unified in order to compose larger entities.

Another problem of Athens and other Greek towns, is the pursuit to redetermine their space identity. This has been significantly altered over the last 60 years with the abuse of urban space, by the search and design of the collective, public character of Open Public Spaces and the expression of the community's urban consciousness.

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the city's Public Spaces considered to be crucial for the quality of its residents' everyday life.

This interest is expressed from both Authorities and residents.

Over the last twenty years, the Municipal Authorities of Greek towns conducted programmes, that aimed to reshape and reform their public spaces, in order to improve the quality of urban space.

The design interventions, in the urban spaces of Greek towns, such as squares, pedestrian roads, open spaces, did not succeed, up to now, except in a few cases, to assemble coherent projects and consistent reference points.

The results of these reformation programmes, despite the good efforts made, in most cases did not succeed to produce open public spaces of such quality, as to become points of reference in the city, and provide a better quality of life to its residents.

In Greece and consequently in Athens, life in open spaces is dominant, due to the climate. Open spaces can be used for at least seven months per year and this has been a characteristic feature of the social life in Open Public Spaces for a very long time.

The allocation of cultural spaces in Athens is affected by State policy about these matters.

The city's center collects the majority of Open Public Spaces that have cultural dimensions. The domination of the center of Athens as a space that concentrates most cultural activities, is due to social structure and to its symbolic particularity that is derived from its role and tradition.

Athens contains in its central area a large number of Monuments. Moreover, Athens' ancient Monuments or Monumental Spaces consist a system of historical elements that provide a complete image to anyone desiring to recognize the era. Acropolis, Pnyka, Agora, Ancient Theaters, Odeum, Ancient Residential areas, parts of city walls, Keramikos etc, consist elements of this system. There are also remains from the Roman and Byzantine period, as well as from the period of Turkish occupancy. Furthermore, from the first period of the New Hellenic State, called Neoclassic period, there still is a number of architectural Monuments, such as (Public and private buildings, Spaces' formations and also a part of the historical urban fabric).

During the city's expansions, buildings and Public Spaces from the city's recent history express the society's aesthetic preferences and can be considered as newer Monuments.

Many of the above mentioned Monuments have been replaced by other ones, while the density of existing Monuments is not the same in all districts.

Monuments' biggest concentration happens to be in the central Athens' area, but these are out of inhabitants' everyday activities' routes and related experience. This fact leads to the annulment of Monuments' particular contribution.

1.4.1. The insufficiency of Athens' Open Public Spaces

A critical issue in the city of Athens is the proportion of Open Public Spaces in relation to population and size of the city, as well as their allocation throughout the city's area. Initially in Athens there were ample Open Public and Green Spaces and the presence of the natural environment was profound, but progressively today we have reached the opposite result and the situation is gravely negative as far as sufficiency is concerned.

Sufficiency is a meaning more related to quantities eg. Space standards which are applied by Town Planning, whilst adequacy except for quantitative characteristics has also qualitative parameters and the notion of being appropriate, suitable for a certain urban society.

The adequacy of Open Public Spaces is not an absolute meaning that could be measured and applied in all cases, and especially cannot be based only on quantitative parameters.

As Professor G. Spyer puts it, *"Figures are not a reliable criterion for Athens. It is possible that different cities can have different requirements, depending on a range of factors from climate to density or development"*.

An extreme example is N. York city and especially Manhattan, with the highest density, where the pattern of one very large central area has been used (Central Park).

However, Manhattan has all its coastal areas (Battery Park etc), in a satisfactory proximity, which are contributing to Open Spaces and fulfill related requirements. The natural environment surrounding the city, its quality and proximity, as well as its relationships with the city, in terms of views, or zones penetrating to the city, are of great importance, and influence the perception of adequacy of Open Public Spaces.

We usually tend to compare with patterns and standards which are seen in other places or remember from the past in the same place.

In the case of Athens, the city's Open Public Spaces and Green Spaces evolved from the predominant presence of the natural environment and ample Open Public Spaces, in relation to city's built areas, to the almost complete absence of the natural environment in certain districts and very few Open Public Spaces.

Perhaps the period with the most balanced relationships between built environment (density, building heights, size, forms etc), the Open Public Spaces (streets, squares, Parks etc) and the natural Environment despite the problems, was the period between 1860 and 1940. The way and the place of life were also more quiet and the much nicer image of the buildings, Open Public Spaces and the city in general, all contributed to a perception of an Urban Space decent and agreeable to live. Besides, the climate in Athens always invited for outdoor life, which the increasing size of the city gradually removes the natural environment from residential areas.

Nowadays, the unprogrammed, city's expansions and the severely increased density and, the annoying uses, have aggravated the proportion of Open and Green Spaces per inhabitant, not only in figures, but also in real living conditions.

Therefore today, that the city life conditions have become worse, due to population increases and to city expansions, we face the need of re-evaluating of the entire problem. This is necessary in order to be able to plan better city functions and better Public Spaces, to service new needs created by the new social, economic and political conditions.

The determination of specifications concerning Open Public Spaces and needs of a settlement, is a difficult task, especially in old towns like Athens, as the relationships between built and open space and the relationships between Open Public Space and population, must be examined separately in each case, according to their specific circumstances.

These specifications usually lead to space standards, but there is always a difficult stage of application within the specific conditions related to natural data, the various uses and their significance, economic factors, functional dynamics, private requirements, and various unforeseen tendencies which appear.

Moreover, in the cases of cities with population over 1.000.000 inhabitants, the proportion of these areas per inhabitant is decreasing,. (Aravantinos, 1997).

However, in large cities still increasing, the area of Open Public Spaces needed per resident, should be respectively increased along with the population increases.

In Athens, the insufficiency of Open Spaces and Green areas is well known, and the same occurs in other large international cities.

In the Capitals of some developed countries, with population increase during the post-War period, a decrease of open spaces has been noted (e.g. Paris). In cities with stabilized population and with a tradition in large open spaces, these spaces have satisfactory proportions (e.g. Vien), whilst in cities designed as Capitals, there is an over abundance (e.g. Washington).

Proportion of Green areas per inhabitant. (Aravantinos and Kosmaki 1988).

m² / inhabitant

Paris (Intra Muros), including forests of	
Boulogne and Vincennes	5,25
Rome	9,0
London	9,0
Berlin	23,0
Vien	25,0
Washington	50,0
Moscow (1970)	20,0
Sofia (1980)	22,0
Hamburg	37,0
Stevenage (English New Town)	29,0

According to P. Rossilion, (Aravantinos and Kosmaki, 1988), the specifications per inhabitant are :

Playgrounds	1,0m ² / inhabitant
Sports fields	4,0
Parks and gardens	4,5
Groves, open spaces of recreation	10,0

total 19,5 m²/ inhabitant

According to the manual "Stadttebau" by Wortmann and Tamms (1973), (Aravantinos and Kosmaki, 1988), these areas should be :

Playgrounds	1-3m ² / inhabitant
Sports fields	4-5
Parks and gardens	3-15
Groves, open spaces for recreation	12-25

total 20-48 m²/ inhabitant

The standards proposed by the Community of New Towns in England for Open Public Spaces, are approximately 40m²/ inhabitant. (Aravantinos and Kosmaki 1988).

To these areas, Open Spaces, usually the natural landscape surrounding the city, must be added. These areas should be accessible in 60 minutes by car. Also related to the above Open Public Spaces are the necessary parking areas. In Greek towns there are many deficiencies in Open Public Spaces and especially in green areas.

According to research by J. Stefanou on Greek Towns in the decade of '70s, there is an average of Open Spaces of 3,12 m² per inhabitant, which increases up to 12,0 m²/ inhabitant in small towns.

In the area of Athens, the percentage of Open Public Spaces is approximately 2,8 m²/ inhabitant. According to another study, by Gr. Diamantopoulos and Chr. Bezante, in Athens the residential area occupies 47%, Open Spaces 3,6%, and transportation networks 27,8% of the city space. (Aravantinos and Kosmaki, 1988).

Furthermore, a part of Open Public Spaces i.e. roads, are 70% covered by asphalt and used by cars, and 30% are sidewalks (with or without trees plantation), which are sometimes also used for parking cars and other vehicles.

The 65% of Athens's Green areas are consisted by the Hills of Lycabettus, Philopappou and the Acropolis and the two gardens, the National Garden and Mars' Field, which refer to the whole city.

In privileged districts the lack of connection between green spaces, open spaces, and pedestrian roads, along with the high density, reduce their contribution to the quality of city's environment. Today the hills, an excellent element of Attic Landscape, cannot be seen from the majority of city's places.

According to a study for Athens in 1980, in which the author participated, the land uses in the Municipality of Athens area, are :

- Residence	1500 Ha	(38,5%)
- Street network	960,0	(24,6%)
- Open and Green Spaces	547,5	(14%)
- City's Open Spaces	295,0	(7,6%)
- Administration	32,5	(0,8%)
- Culture, Education	85,0	(2,2%)
- Health	105,0	(2,7%)
- Services, Commerce	80,0	(2,0%)
- Services, Manufacture	70,0	(1,8%)
- Manufacture – Residence	69,0	(1,8%)
- Industry – Manufacture	100,0	(2,6%)
- Special installations	<u>56,0</u>	(1,4%)
Total	3900,0 Ha	

(Papayannis and Associates 1980)

In Athens, Open Public Spaces are not united and are mostly concentrated in the central area, while the other city regions, are without the necessary open spaces of any scale.

1.4.2. Street Furniture Equipment in Athenian Open Public Spaces.

The elements of Street Furniture Equipment are structural elements of Open Public Spaces, and contribute to the formation, the functioning and the character of these spaces. These elements are usually being created by various public and Community Organizations,

thus, sometimes, in undersigned spaces result the disorderly and undisciplined appearance, and express a downgrading of activities and relationships in Athens. Open Public Spaces.

The recognition, the recording, the registration and the assessment of the Street Furniture Equipment of the Athenian Open Public Spaces is necessary, so that guidelines will be elaborated for the design and production of such elements in order to have more functional and aesthetically integrated equipment in Open Public Spaces, in the future.

1.4.3. The Role of the State

The organization and programming of City matters and consequently of Open Public Spaces, is under the jurisdiction of the State.

Therefore, the interventions and handling of issues concerning Open Public Spaces, is the Public's responsibility.

The role of the State in today's socio-economic system, in relation to Urban Space is not stable and not always the same. In the case of Athens, the legislative context has been altered many times during the city's development and there have often been parallel activities made by the Government and the Municipality of Athens.

In Greece, the role of the State has passed through various stages since 1833, when the new Hellenic State had been established.

- In the first stage, the design of the Town Plan had been assigned to Kleanthis and Schaubert, who proposed an integrated plan, adapted to the Attic Landscape, respecting the historical Monuments, although it also included influences by relevant European concepts. Since then, there had been many interventions by the State and its consultants, which caused a number of mostly negative modifications.
- In the second stage, the State followed various European trends, in an attempt to "modernize" its image, along with its organization, by assigning studies of the Town Plan to committees, architects and consultants. Despite all these proposals, no significant decisions have been taken with respect to the form of an integrated Urban Organization and Open Public Space.
- Since the beginning of the 20th Century, the city of Athens has undergone many changes which led to great size increase, especially during the periods following the 2nd World War, till recent periods. However, the interventions made by the State mostly concerned the city's expansions, but without sufficient programming and often dealt with items of minor importance. Moreover, the States' interventions were often on behalf of land owners or big companies, at the expense of inhabitants and the environment.
- An extremely difficult problem has been the continuous construction of arbitrary housing in very large areas surrounding the city, without having the appropriate infrastructure or being incorporated into the City Plan. This had dire consequences on Urban Space quality, and also affected the sufficiency and quality of Open Public Spaces.

Therefore, the role of the State has to be examined in this project, in order to deduct conclusions for its future capacities.

1.5. Theoretical approach.

Since ancient times, the organization of Urban Space and the Urban Social Phenomenon, has been the subject of a number of theoretical studies.

These social theories, which attempt to relate Urban Space and Society, examine from different points of view, urban space on the basis of ideological, social, or economic factors. During the historical evolution, the perception of the city had been altered according to the prevailing historic events and social structures. They respectively, considered the city as philosophical reason (Archaic and Medieval era), as a concentration of technical procedures for the control of Nature (Renaissance), as place of law (Enlightenment), as a space of class struggles (Industrial Revolution), as a functional system (Mid-War period), and as a place of complicated communicational structures and ecological issues (Contemporary Era).

Some of these theories examine the Urban Phenomenon in a fragmentary manner, according to their view and not through a general and integrated framework.

In brief, the main theories developed over the two last centuries are :

1. The Positivism's perception of the 19th century was expressed by the German (F. Tonnies 1975, M. Weber) and the French (A. Comte, E. Durkheim) sociological point of view, which examined the consequences of the evolutionary transition from the traditional and concrete forms of Community of pre-industrial society, to the anonymous social form of 20th century cities, a society with different social relationships. According to Tonnies, the meaning of society refers to the meaning of the city.
2. The 19th century Theory of Historic Dialectical Materialism (K. Marx, F. Engels, 1973) considered the process of production and economic relationships of the Industrial Revolution period, as the principal elements that mould the Social structure and role of the city in the production system.
3. In Europe, the industrialization and development of technology, created new living conditions in the years 1920-1930. It also consisted the basis for the evolution of the CIAM (Congres Internationaux de l' Architecture Moderne), which expressed the aspects of Modern Movement in Urban Planning, based on the Charter of Athens

- (1933). (Technical Chronicles, 1983). The manifests of Bauhaus had expressed the necessity of the notional connection of architecture and international models of reference (ideal solids, universal humanistic aspirations) and dismissed the past as inadequate and superficial context for architecture. Nevertheless, Functionalism as a unique value of Architecture and Urban planning, was not sufficient to re-establish the relationships within the broader cultural context to which it is referring to.
4. During the mid-War period, the great Socio-economic and demographic changes in the United States, led to the Ecological approach of the Chicago School. This approach regarded the social evolution as a result of rivalry and survival of society within the natural and social environment. The city is consisted of the “shell”(houses, roads, land uses) and the inhabitants existing in an ecological unity where any change in one element causes changes to the others. (R. Park, E. Burgess, L. Wirth, G. Simmel).
 5. After the Second War, at the end of 1960s, the theory of Historic and Dialectic Materialism was reconsidered, (H. Lefebvre 1969, M. Castells 1977, H. Marcuse, 1975), disputed, and adapted to that period. It attempted to respond to the relationships between the Social Structure and the city’s organization. It considered the consistency and function of the city, to be the expression of the socioeconomic formation of space. Both the city and society tend towards the creation of a world pattern of Ecumenopolis.
 6. The principles of the Functional approach as expressed in the “Charter of Athens” following the Second World War, were used to the formations of theoretical and applicable City Planning design methods, employed for the analysis of the Urban phenomenon. (G. Candilis, P. and A. Smithsons, P. Bakema). (Smithson, 1968). The International Style significantly weakened Modern Architecture from any deep speculation, and promoted a more superficial approach e.g. the standardization of various elements. This fact influenced in a negative manner the organization and the shaping of the Public Space.
 7. Since the ‘60s, a new questioning arised, concerning the reestablishment of the relationship among Architecture and Urban Planning, and in the broader sense between socio-political action and architectural tradition.

8. In addition, since the beginning of the 20th century, various notions related to Systemicity appeared in some scientific fields, such as the organization of Language (de Saussure), the “total” character of the Social Phenomena (Mauss), social structural analysis (Parsons), configuration structure (Gestalt) in Psychology (Kaffka, Kohler), “homeostasis” (Cannon), “structure” in Linguistics and in Anthropology (School of Prague), Genetic Psychology (Piaget) etc.
9. The above concepts led to the genesis and development of Structuralism, during the 1950s and 1960s. Using the meaning of “structure”, these concepts opened up a new period in scientific and philosophical research in the area of social sciences, with many scientists from various fields involved, e.g. C. Levi – Strauss, J. Lacan, R. Barthes, T. Todorov, L. Althusser, P. Bourdieu, M. Foucault, J. Derrida, J. P. Vernand. The reason behind this diversity was that Structuralism offered an adaptable scientific model for Linguistics, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychoanalysis etc. (Dosse, 1998).

The perception of Urban Space as a “system” is accepted by the majority of students of the above fields. (Lagopoulos 1973, Katri 1985).

10. Other approaches base their analysis of the urban phenomenon on various determining factors, such as the Economy (Jacobs, 1970), Culture, (Despotopoulos, 1997) or Semeiotics, (Lynch, 1998) which are considered as the predominant axes in the process of city development.

Associating some aspects and ideas of the above considerations, which are very important and useful for the evolution of the project, we can perceive for methodological reasons, the three big units which are of interest here, i.e., Society, Public Space, and Landscape, as structures or systems.

These units, as every structure, are comprised of organized elements which operate according to certain laws and relationships. The basic aim is to keep the structure active and to improve its living conditions by controlling the basic variable factors and by being adapted to new environmental conditions and changes.

In urban space, where procedures of production, consumption, exchange and administration take place, a multiplicity of functions is noticed, such as housing, industry, commerce, public transportation, etc.

The allocation of urban land in relation to land uses, or the development patterns of various activities in the urban fabric, have been the subject of many studies.

The function of market mechanisms causes a series of problems in the social organization of urban space, leading to tensions caused by certain inequalities.

Business activity tends to invest its capital in the areas of Urban Space, aiming to maximize profits, and to provide better services to these areas, in comparison to areas of lower income. (Nicolaidou, 1993).

Contemporary cities, as spaces of production, consumption, and exchange of products and services, consist a field of social interest and claims made by individuals and social groups.

In this way, on the socio – economic level, contemporary Urban Space expresses a temporary “compromise” between a number of conflicting demands. Alterations of the social values, demands and needs of urban centers’ populations, influence the choices on a politicosocial level. The social structure impacts the spatial patterns of the organization of Urban Space. With the increasing size of a city, specific interventions create conflicting interests, as the benefits of these interventions are received by groups which are different from those charged with the costs of the interventions.

The post-War excessive expansion of Urban Space, led to the split of the simple center of Urban Structure, and subsequently to creation of new areas in Urban Space.

However, the initial core of the city, the Center, is characterized by the “attraction” which it exercised on the inhabitants. (Lynch, 1993). This appealing force of the Center, is not only due to the concentration of activities and social equipment, but also to the specific quality dimensions (prestige, glamour, vividness, particularity) which are lent to its elements. The center of the city consists by itself, a place of leisure and a constant occasion for a variety of “spectacles”. Open Public Spaces are parts of the City Center and are the means through which, the Center is experienced by its inhabitants.

By the interaction among the elements of Urban Space, a special atmosphere is created, which determines the attraction of the Center.

The complicated and specific processes under which every Open Public Space is produced, creates a uniqueness, a distinctive character, which is not stable but changes in time, as the evolving conditions which impact it, also change. (Norbert – Schulz, 1980).

Respectively, every society has an originality that depends on the situations from which it has been derived. This fact creates an enormous diversity of special characteristics, as for example, the units of a social structure which are also structured according to the cultural and economic practices, rules, relationships etc.

The completion, survival and prosperity of the entire society depends on how well each element of the social structure plays its role within the overall framework of functions.

The determinative existence of relationships and interactions between Public Space and Society is a main standpoint of this project.

In Public Spaces, Society is being produced, through a generation of new relationships, as well as, Public Space is produced by Society and expresses its social and cultural values.

The correlation between a specific society and a particular Public Space, involves the interactive relationships between the structure of this society and the structure of the Public Space.

The amelioration of living conditions of a Society partially depends on the quality of Public Spaces and the urban environment.

In addition, at least during the first stages of its creation, the structure of the Public Space is related to the structure of the natural Landscape on which it is constructed.

From the above mentioned issues it may be concluded that there is a correspondence, an interdependence and an interaction between the Society, natural Landscape and Public Space.

1.6. Methodology

The Methodology to be used in this project, has to be related to the two categories of problems, i.e. the theoretical and practical approach.

Moreover, as the development of Public Spaces of Athens during this particular period has a historical character, the Methodology selected, must also satisfy historical requirements.

As Historiography also develops, we have to examine its evolution, in order to decide about the precise Methodology that will be used.

Cities and their Open Public Spaces are simultaneously developing, along with the societies to which they refer to and are created by. Moreover, their development also follows the evolution of thought, science, technology and mentality of each period. (Benevolo, 1997).

Therefore, we have to examine Public Spaces in conjunction to these elements with which they have a parallel evolution.

Besides, the evolution of various sciences can offer us impressive aspects of world history, mankind and civilization. The composition of these three, can set off an integrated history, eventually providing many surprises concerning previous historical effects.

It is true, our knowledge of the past is unequal, as we mostly emphasize great civilizations, whilst we neglect to recognize the influence of nations that do not compose historical centers of civilization.

In our attempt to gain knowledge of civilization, we must determine the relevant importance of the various factors in the period which is investigated.

1.6.1. Open Public Spaces and Historiography.

The essence of History is the continuous change in time. This makes necessary the distinction between static and dynamic, primary and secondary, permanent and occasional elements. It is also a study of the changes, expansions, retractions and the mutual influences between civilizations.

Our effort to understand the world, entails that this world has a meaning, an importance that the world has, at least, partially notional coherence.

Human history is the area in which meanings and significances are created. These are the elements that are sought after, in order to gain an understanding of each era.

However, there are elements of civilization, culture, manners and customs or ways of living, that continue to exist and unite various eras and nations, in spite of all the discontinuities that occur during the historical evolution.

Historically, the Architectural culture is related to general culture and art. What we call art today is widely spread over many fields of cultural activities, but is at least distinguished from ordinary production, expressing the trends of evolution, of thought and the general spirit of our time. (Williams, 1994).

The basic question is, whether art has its own autonomous history or is it determined by factors of socioeconomic analysis.

The idealistic aspect considers Architecture as a product of a perfect vision and technique, of an autonomous activity, which is not related to society or every day reality.

In fact, the dominant social classes impose the demand of the distinctive architectural character of buildings and indirectly, of Public Spaces.

The history of cities and of Public Spaces, includes a history of social conflicts, economic and political realignments and also evolution of technique.

It is also the history of development of ideas, in other words the conception of each society, as it is formulated, articulated and expressed in Public Space.

The history of Public Spaces, coincides with the history of civilization. Public Spaces, more than buildings, are vehicles of historical, cultural, and technological characteristics and they represent the spirit of each era.

Cultural history deals with the approach of the cultural phenomenon (which includes the city's Architecture and the Open Public Spaces) in the broader sense of the term. It has its own evolutionary manner that depends on the mentality of each period.

- a. Aristotles believed that Poetry is superior to History, because it deals with the Whole, whilst History is concerned with the Particular. (Le Goff, 1998). Aristotles as well as Thucydides considered that human nature always functions under the same rules, uninfluenced by the historicity and he attempted to investigate those rules. In this way, the question of the relationship between History and Philosophy was raised.
- b. During the Renaissance period, Humanists projected a particular interest on the notion of European Civilization. They turned their thoughts towards Ancient Greece and Rome, considering them as the cradles of Civilization, and they expressed interest in the fields of History, Philosophy, Literature, Music and Art.
- c. During the 18th Century the marriage of Logic (Philosophy) of History on the one hand, and the inquiry into historic phenomena (antiquarians), on the other, led to the Historiography of Enlightenment (Gibbon, Voltaire). (Le Goff, 1998).

In the same period, the notion of "progress" contributed to the notion of European Civilization, whilst the notion "Culture" started to become widely familiar.

- d. During the 19th Century, History and Philosophy separate, and historicity exists through the distinction between History and Theory, with the exemption of the interrelationship between History and Marxism and History and the Weberian Philosophy. (Le Goff, 1998). History is being formed as a "science" and prioritizes Political History, whilst overlooking the Cultural History.
- e. A new relationship between History and Philosophy (as a Theory of Knowledge) appeared in the second half of 20th century with the abolition of the boundaries between the Social Sciences, Literature Theory and Social Anthropology. In this way, historical writings proceeded from the temporary succession of events, to the selection of events on the basis of unifying

characteristics. In this selection a basic event can reflect the characteristics of a society, as is the study of common consciousness in conjunction to society or the way a social class is composed, an experience or culture are handled. In this way History is identified with a perception of progress or with a society's imposed course.

Contemporary Cultural History has various pursuits and directions and has developed either dialectically or antithetically, with some main components :

- i. The recognition of dead locks in Social and Economic History.
 - ii. The post modern questioning concerning knowledge, thought systems and civilization.
 - iii. The turn to language.
- i. The prevalence of Social and Economic History since the '50s, focused on economic values and analysis, and considered the History of Ideas and Cultural History, to be abstract and elite.

The emphasis on economic structures for the definition of the notion Social, led to an extreme application of a materialistic model which replaced the notion Social with its mechanistic approach (French School of Annales, and English Marxist Historiography). (Iggers, 1999).

In search for an outlet, an idea of "mentality", was conducted. This materialistic scheme aiming to correct the meaning of "social experience", was based on statistics, mathematic series analysis, used for the classification and categorization of multiple data.

Gradually, "mentalities" had been approached not as a result of material conditions, but as mental trends which formed the perception of reality and human behavior.

In this way, the tendency for grouping mentality trends per social categories was shifted towards the small scale and the individualistic approach.

In England, the methods of social and economic History were connected with the elevation of Culture and experience as basic elements of social class creation and political culture development (E. Thomson). (Iggers, 1999).

Experience is culturally translated and determines the content of social existence and the ways that men encounter the reality of social life. Thus, social class is constructed via a procedure which is based on experience.

Experience appears as a unifying procedure and is determined by the relationships of production, whilst some parameters such as sex, religion, nationality, age etc, are downgraded.

At the same time, pursuits of Social Anthropology (Cl. Geertz) and the approach towards culture as a semantic system, derived from inherited notions which are expressed with symbolic forms, from which experience is determined, led to studies of precedent societies, which had collective symbolic practices (festivities religions, ceremonies etc). (Le Goff, 1998).

- ii. Another argument is related to the postmodern speculation. It starts from the issue of Knowledge and the search for systems of culture, which shape and describe an era's wider frame of perception, and is expressed with a range of "Reasons" and formulates proposals through which reality is understood (M. Foucault), (Iggers, 1999).

In this way, the relationship between knowledge and political strength and authority, extends to the relationship between culture and political strength. This occurs via procedure of cultural constitution and also deals with the prevalence and legalization of one or more ruling "Reasons". The meanings of Knowledge and "Evolution" are also changing. Evolution appears disrupted and paradoxical and knowledge generates the unknown, while both aim to the difference. (Lyotard, 1993).

- iii. With the turn towards "language" it has been recognized that there is no human activity without linguistic practice and a great emphasis has been placed on linguistic means and theoretical descriptions of an experience's organization. Furthermore, a tendency has been noted towards the political relationship of verbal significance and world's function as a "text" which is read as a sign system.

Language, texts and narrative structures, are being approached as active parameters in the formation of mental structures and symbolic meanings which operate in a communicative community. (Iggers, 1999).

In the space of Cultural History, a convergence is noticed between the models of Anthropology and Literature review, which is characterized by the use of language as a metaphor. Symbolic acts are being approached as linguistic codes.

On the other hand, according to F. de Saussure, language composes a closed, autonomous system with a syntactic structure. This consideration leads to the structuralistic idea of society and History : *Man moves enclosed into structures*. (Iggers, 1999).

On the analogy of language, the Architecture of specific buildings and Public Spaces which are considered as consisting of buildings and spaces, is examined as an entity of architectural language codes and as on going mental systems, which participate in the formation and expression of the social experience.

Any attempt to present historical examples of Public Spaces, should examine under methodological pluralism, simultaneous multiple aspects of reality per each period, which would enlighten, as integrally as possible, the various sides of social reality and cultural events.

In this project, a part of the Urban Space of Athens, i.e. Open Public Spaces, will be examined. There will be an effort to go beyond the stage of mere description and conversion of all facts into quantities and to appraise the phenomena by comparing them in time and in space and considering their contents.

Any examination of the characteristics of Athens' Public Spaces should relate the spatial phenomena to social economic and political components, as well as to relevant historical periods.

Methodologically, the examination of Open Public Spaces should be related to other basic elements of urban phenomena, such as the society and the urban or natural Landscape, in an effort to provide rational explanations and search for the reasons. However, the complicated issues of social structure and Urban Public Space cannot determine concrete relationships.

They have an enormous number of applications, which cannot be explained by general, not historical laws.

Consequently, it seems necessary to examine these relationships, within the particular circumstances in which they have been created during the historic development of Athens, since 1940.

The development of Open Public Spaces in Athens is directly related to the city's development. Thus, one has to follow the evolution of Athens' urbanization in order to understand the changes occurred in the Open Public Spaces. However, it is not so easy to determine time periods in Spaces' development, because Space presents a relative inertia, or a delay of its modifications, in comparison to general socio – economic changes. This spatial inertia leads sometimes to wrong estimations of an autonomy of spatial forms (Karidis, 1990).

Moreover, as many of Open Public Spaces of contemporary Athens, originate from their first 19th and 20th century formations, a brief History of the development of the city and its spaces is necessary. The subdivision of the total period into critical sub-periods, according to political, economic, and cultural facts and characteristics, is essential for the understanding of the reasons which determined the final results.

The reference to particular historic events, aims to the understanding and interpretation of the innate shortcomings of the social organization of Athenian Public Spaces.

The study of characteristics and substance of Open Public Spaces could be related to a three - dimensional approach. (Terzoglou, 1992).

- The Structural and Functional dimension, refers to the :
 - Location of this space in the Urban structure.
 - Relationships of this space with the immediate and broader Urban environment.
 - Terms of continuity of these relationships through the Urban fabric.
 - Significance and role of functions in the broader area in relation to the function of these spaces.
 - Users of the space.
 - Social structure and social classes related to the space.

- Organized or spontaneous events that occur in this space, such as gatherings, meetings, social conflicts, protests, communal activities.
- Transformation of this space over a length of time, e.g. during the day, week, year, or during special celebrations, festivities etc.
- The Semantic and Symbolic dimension, which refers to :
 - The significance and meaning of this space to the city of Athens.
 - The reference of the space to a specific event, i.e., as a monument.
 - The role of the space as a medium of conscious or unconscious knowledge, contrary to superficial information.
 - The cultural significance of Open Public Space.
- The dimension of Composition, Constitution and Formation, which refers to the :
 - Structure of the space, elements composing the space, relationships between them and street furniture equipment.
 - The space's independent existence from activities and functions.
 - Shape of the empty space, the void of open space, and relationships between the city's other open spaces (private or natural).
 - Limits of space and means for their formation and realization.

All the above presented, consist the general framework. However it is not possible to apply all the above elements in the examination of every Open Public Spaces of Athens in the context of this project, but they will be presented in the general spirit of the study and in Case Studies (Chapter 4).

According to the proposed methodology, which is derived from the extended above, each period will be examined under the following scheme:

- General review of the political situation.
- The spirit of the times
- The social structure
- The city.
- The public spaces.

1.7. Plan

In the attempt to meet the requirements of the theoretical and the practical aspects of the project, the main points of the project would be the following :

- Reference to the specific conditions and problems of the Greek State, in the period following the Second World War, (social, economic etc.), which created the tremendous population growth and expansion of the Town areas. A focus is made on the case of Athens.
- Review of some aspects of postwar city conditions in Greece, till the present. Furthermore, thoughts will be made on the possible perspectives of the cities concerning the new problems which are emerging. Attempt to estimate the role of Landscape Design with regards to the improvement of the environment of Athens.
- Follow the evolution of Public Spaces of central Athens. The whole period will be subdivided into smaller entities according to their historical, social and economic characteristics.
- Evaluate what Public Spaces have been produced in recent years by the economic and political conditions and by Society, in order to come to conclusions and to new ideas on how the city's environment should be.
- Documentary research, on the various proposals made by authorities concerning Public Spaces.
- Attempt to investigate the intentions behind each proposal for the formation of spaces.
- Observe, recognize and register the present situation of Public Spaces, their present use, evaluate whether they are successful, or not, and compare the planned formation to the final results.
- Examine the change of city life conditions (social, economical), change of attitudes etc., which have affected Public Spaces and also examine their impact.

- Compare the problems and conditions of these Public Spaces with the new tendencies of Landscape Architecture in Europe.
- Conclusions made on the new needs of inhabitants, under present conditions, and to what extent these needs have been covered.
- Investigate the plans for the future Public Works, concerning Central Public Spaces and the Unification of Archaeological Sites and Works for the 2004 Olympic Games. Also examine their aims and impact on the character of the city.
- Conclusions and proposals.

1.8. Conclusion

This Project, offers the opportunity to study items concerning Landscape Architecture, as applied and developed in the city of Athens. The Development of Landscape Architecture offers a field which is extremely interesting and will be of great importance for the city of Athens, in the years to come. Due to economic and social reasons, city life conditions and the environment change rapidly. Therefore they need to be recognized and redesigned with considerations made for the new influencing factors.

The project will offer the opportunity to evaluate some of Athens' problems and needs and consider how these will affect the approach of Landscape Architecture in Athens.

Researches on the principles and solutions of rationally organized Open Public Spaces in residential areas show that a different approach to these items is required, according to :

- The natural characteristics of the environment.
- The predominant uses of the area, and their relationships to other ones.
- The type of constructions and the density of the area.
- The legislative framework and the real estate situation.
- Other factors related to population, culture etc.

In already constructed areas, such as those of Athens, the interventionist's target should be made towards the conversion of functions of Open Public Spaces (roads, squares) to the benefit of the pedestrians (creation of pedestrian roads, playgrounds, prohibition of car circulation or parking), and the greenery (increase of green areas etc).

This research and development topic is original, because, as far as I know, the development of the Public Spaces of Athens of this period has not been studied so far in depth or including all the contingencies which are involved. The attempt made is important, in order to understand the aims of Authorities and possibly the failure of some of their intentions. It will also be interesting to note some recent developments regarding the future large works of Athens, that will be made in preparation for the 2004 Olympic games.

1.9. Audience of the Project.

A Project on the Development of Open Public Spaces of Athens, will offer a general, wide vision of the historical evolution of Landscape Architecture in the Central Athens area, over the last 60 years. Apart from the general historical information of Open Public Spaces, it will contribute to the better understanding of the reasons that caused the results.

It will offer a more thorough learning of Open Public Spaces, to Students of Architecture, Architects, Landscape Architects, Urban Designers, and Scholars who are interested in studying the development of the Urban Open Spaces of Athens.

Hopefully, this knowledge will also contribute to the production of a better environment for our cities and especially for the city of Athens.

1.10. Resources and References.

1.10.1. Bibliography

A selection of relevant books and magazines on various topics, has been used :

- Greek Architecture.
- Economy, Social Events, Political evolution etc.
- International Architecture, Landscape Architecture.
- History of the city.
- Specific studies made on various issues related to Landscape Architecture and Urban Spaces.
- Books on the development of Landscape Architecture over the last 20 years.

1.10.2. Experience from Teaching and practicing Landscape Architecture.

My experience from Teaching Landscape Architecture at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), has been helpful in the definition of various meanings, in methodology, and in various items concerning the development of Open Public Spaces.

1.10.3. Authorities archives.

This is a difficult research, as many different public services deal with Public Spaces, and not all archives are well organized and easily accessible.

The collection of this material is mostly made from projects of Public Spaces designed and produced since 1950. Extensive work has been conducted which focuses on the most important cases.

1.10.4. On the spot data collection

This way of data collection is made through observation and registration especially from photographs, sketches and information of plans with modifications made that concern the use by social groups and the quality of the environment (built or natural).

1.10.5. Press Publications

These are usually made for planned Public works in the near or distant future.

1.10.6. Other References.

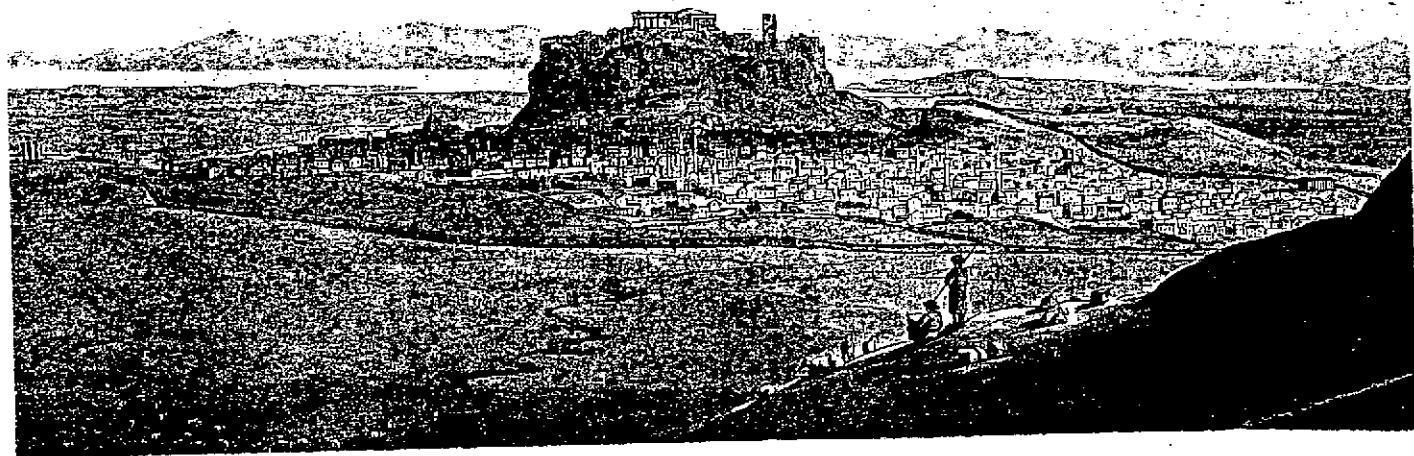
Books referring to the subject in general. These References can be grouped according to their origin and scope:

- Institutions, Councils, Foundations, etc, as:
Architects Council of Europe, European Council of Town Planners, European Foundation for the Improvement of living and Working Conditions, Landscape Institute.
- Congresses yearbooks, such as the International Federation of Landscape Architects.

1.10.7. Other

This project is based also on the author's knowledge and experience from living in Athens and from visits to other European countries.

- Experience from living in the Athens area, following its changes on a socioeconomic level and in public spaces over the last 40 years.
- Literary Knowledge of the development of the urban areas of Athens in the 20th century.



1. Athens in 1810 (J. Hobhouse, source: Biris, 1996)



2. Otto's official arrival in Athens in 1833 (P. von Hess, 1839, source: National Bank's collection)



3. Athens and its surroundings in 1840 (Du Moncel, source: Biris:1996)

2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

BRIEF REVISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES OF ATHENS DURING THE 19th AND THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20th CENTURY.

2.1. Period of Reign of King Otto. (1833 – 1862).

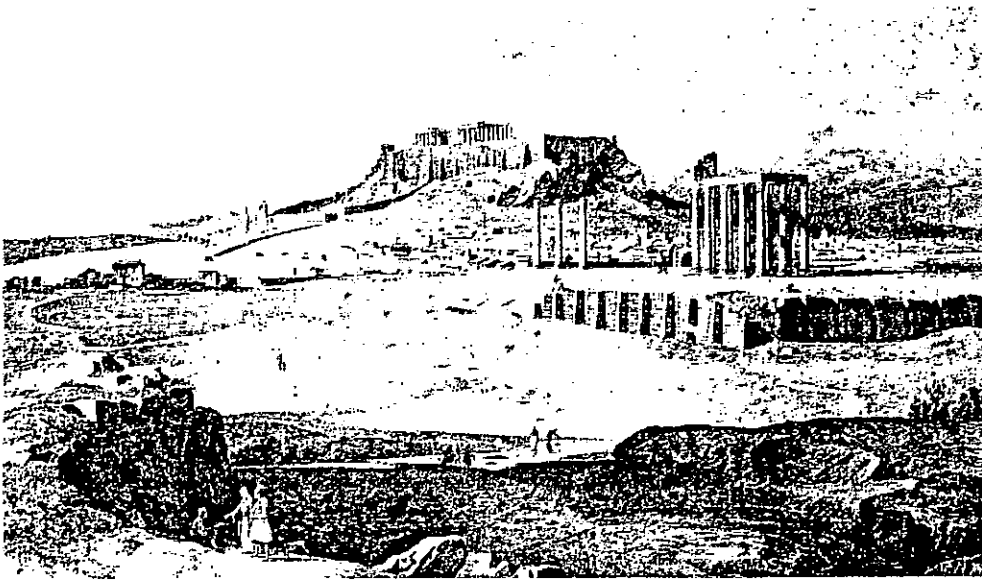
Athens is a “new” town of the 19th Century. This is due to the Turkish occupancy, that lasted about 400 years, creating a large gap that separated the city from its historic past.

After the Turkish occupancy, the establishment of the Hellenic Kingdom began in 1833, with the London Protocol. This protocol recognized Greece as an independent State, and was followed by the arrival of King Otto.

When Athens was selected as the capital of the new Kingdom, thanks to the intense interest of the Philhellene Bavarian King Ludwig (Louis) 1st, Athens was a former picturesque and prosperous village of 5.000 inhabitants (Travlos, 1993). The layout of the streets was totally irregular and the houses were of poor workmanship, destroyed by the last Turkish siege. However, after one year in 1834, the population doubled. The Portcity of Piraeus consisted of a few wooden huts. The connection with the port was completed in 1835, with the road construction and the organization of transport with horse – drawn carriages. Since then, Piraeus, as a transportation junction, had a parallel development in comparison to Athens.

On June 29th 1833, the Law concerning the “Rebuilding of the Town of Athens and Transposition of the Government in this place”, was stipulated.

The town was built up on the northern side of the Acropolis, enclosed by walls. Its population consisted of old Athenians originating from the Byzantine period, Albanians that had emigrated from the 12th – 13th century, Turks and veterans of the liberation wars. A number of foreigners (diplomats, people of the army, travelers) and other minorities also inhabited the area. (Svoronos, 1976). In 1834, the Turkish city walls had been demolished in order to allow for the extension of the city. (Travlos, 1993).



4. Part of the city in 1835 (Stademmann, source: Biris 1996)



5. The construction of Piraeus Street in 1835 (L. Kollnberger, source: National Historic Museum)



6. Part of the city of Athens in 1835 (Stademan, source: Biris 1996)

The period of King Otto's reign, was a period of Bavarian government and education, with the "Great Defense Powers" behind all the political mechanisms. The above influences imposed a context of "westernization" of the Greek State, which was acceptable by the native bourgeoisie.

In addition, the landowners, Phanariotes and other Greeks from abroad dominated the scenes, pushing aside the war veterans who had fought against the Turks for the new state. Besides, the European revolutionary movements for social freedom also influenced Greece. (Svoronos, 1976).

The item of Land property is of a special interest here. During the Ottoman Occupancy, for over 400 years, the basic system concerning land ownership was that the land belongs to the State, in order to prevent the evolution of Landowners. Within this system, Ottoman Legislation accepted two exception : a) "Vakoufia" i.e., lands owned by monasteries and b) "Tsiflikia" i.e. lands offered by the Sultan to individuals, for their excellent services.

During this period, the agrarian production preserved a family character, as the peasants practiced small family – based cultivation and had a peculiar life – estate.

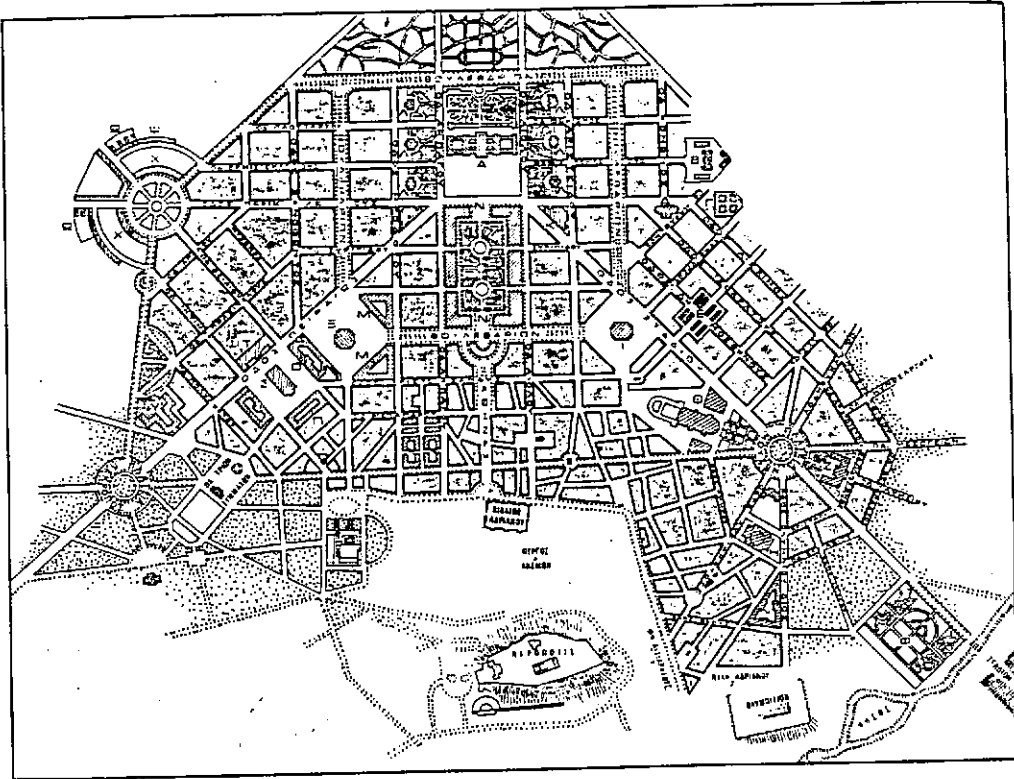
The independence of 1828, under J. Kapodistrias, introduced the Roman - German Legislation, which caused a state of uncertainty in relation to land properties, while bourgeois landowners attempted the liberalization of the lands. Instead, the Greek State preferred to keep the ownership of these estates and incorporate them to Public's property and not allow its commercialization. (Vergopoulos 1975).

Attica consisted a special case, as it was annexed by the independent Greek State, with a considerable delay, in 1833.

This annexation has been achieved under a special treaty, in the name of which, the Greek State was bound to recognize the vested rights of ottoman subjects, which remained in Attica, protecting the Turkish estates from nationalization of lands.

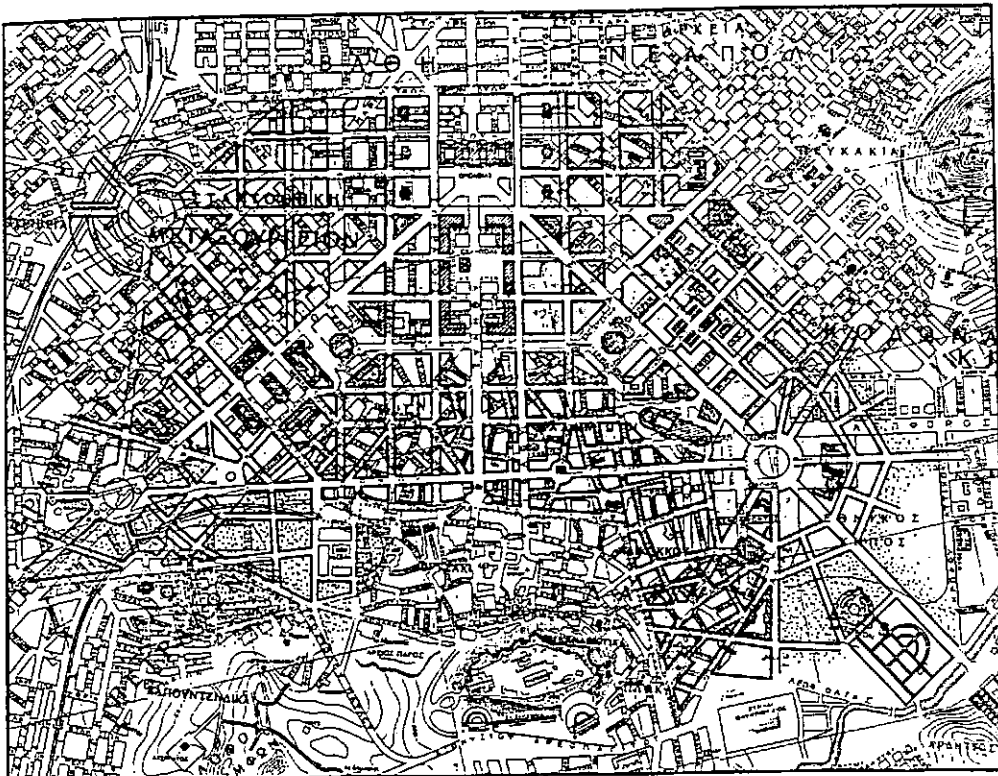
However, since the installation of Greek State in Athens, the Turks retired from Attica, selling their "rights" to Greek capitalists. Consequently, the big land ownership, although prevented by the Greek State, was inserted in Attica under the protection of Roman – German Legislation, as the Greek Capitalists after having bought the "rights" on the Turkish estates, "tsiflikia", obtained from the Greek State a series of legislative acts recognizing their complete ownership (Vergopoulos, 1975).

These land owners would play a negative role, protesting against the application of the Town Plans proposed by Kleanthis – Schaudert and later on, by many others.



7. The Urban plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert (source: Biris 1996)

A. Royal Palace, B. military camp, Z. Academy, E. Market, Ξ stock Exchange, H. Library.



8. The Urban plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert in relation to today's city (source: Biris 1996)

Other big landowners were the Monasteries owning “Vakoufia”, such as Moni Petraki in Kolonaki area and Moni Pentelis, on Penteli Mountain.

This period was characterized by centralization in administration, indulgence in State decision making and economic insufficiency. The Greeks were absent from formal policy-making of the Ottonian period, with the exception of protests. Moreover, a cultural conflict existed between the Greeks and Germans. (Svoronos, 1976).

The general displeasure of the domestic and foreign policy, led to the military coup of 3rd September 1843. The coup obliged Otto to cede to the Constitution, which was based on the French Charter of 1830. Until 1850, there was a recovery period from the scourge of the revolution. However, the problems remained unsolved and only after 1856 an economic improvement emerged, with the evolution of commerce and shipping.

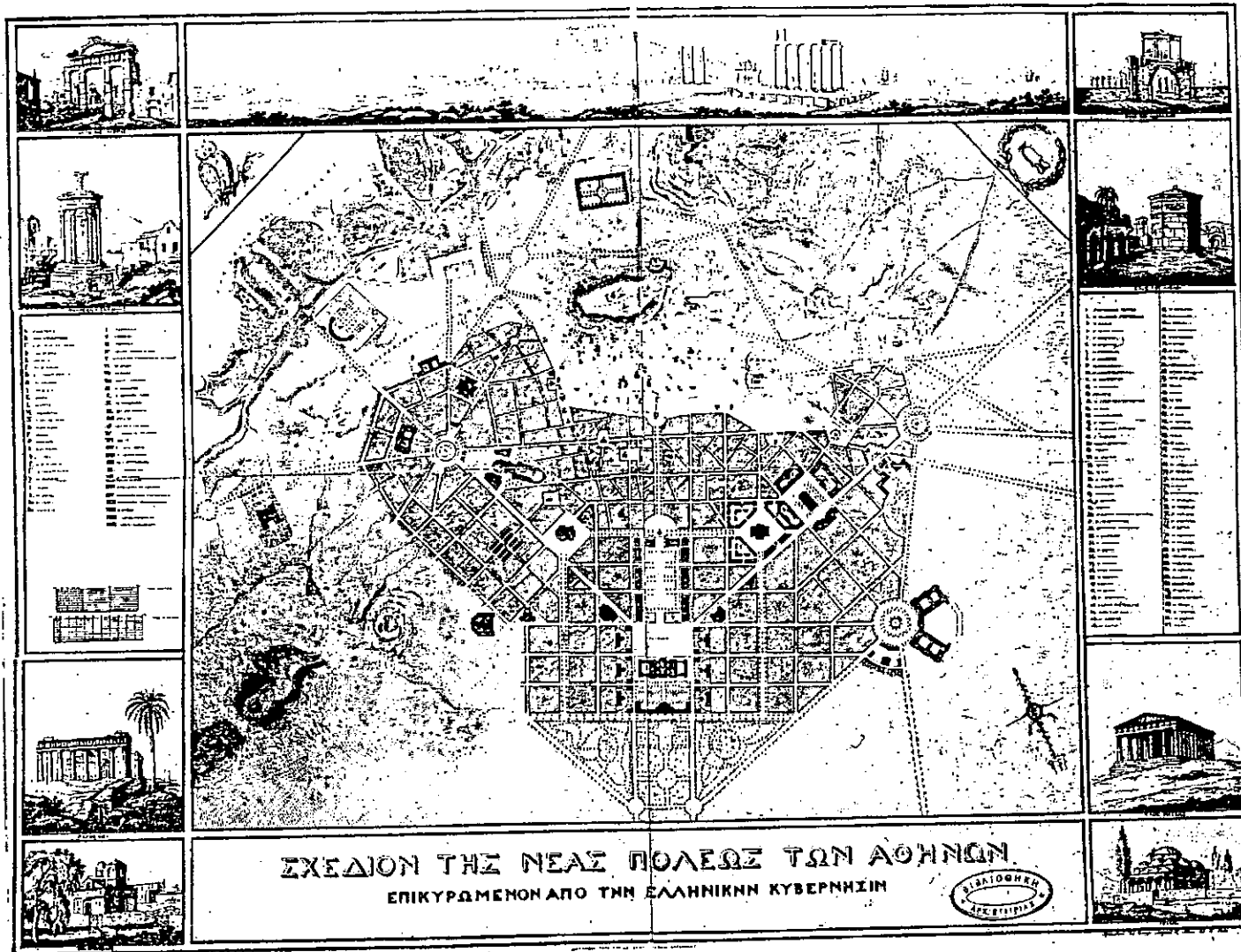
Finally, in 1862, Otto had been deposed and King George I, a supporter of English Policy, ascended the throne.

The upper class became stronger, while its economic operations usually took place abroad. Greek bourgeoisie appeared, since the beginning of 19th century as “over – developed” in relation to the rest part, of society, as it was evolved historically independently to native productive forces. (Vergopoulos 1975). During the 19th century, the real centers of Hellenism, were located beyond the Kingdom: in Salonica Constantinople, Smyrna and Alexandria. For the cosmopolitan Greek bourgeoisie, Athens remained the capital of a poor country, unable to attract investments. A cultural and economic unification began, including parts of the Greek nation and the “Regions” (the Ionian islands, areas of the Ottoman empire and other areas).

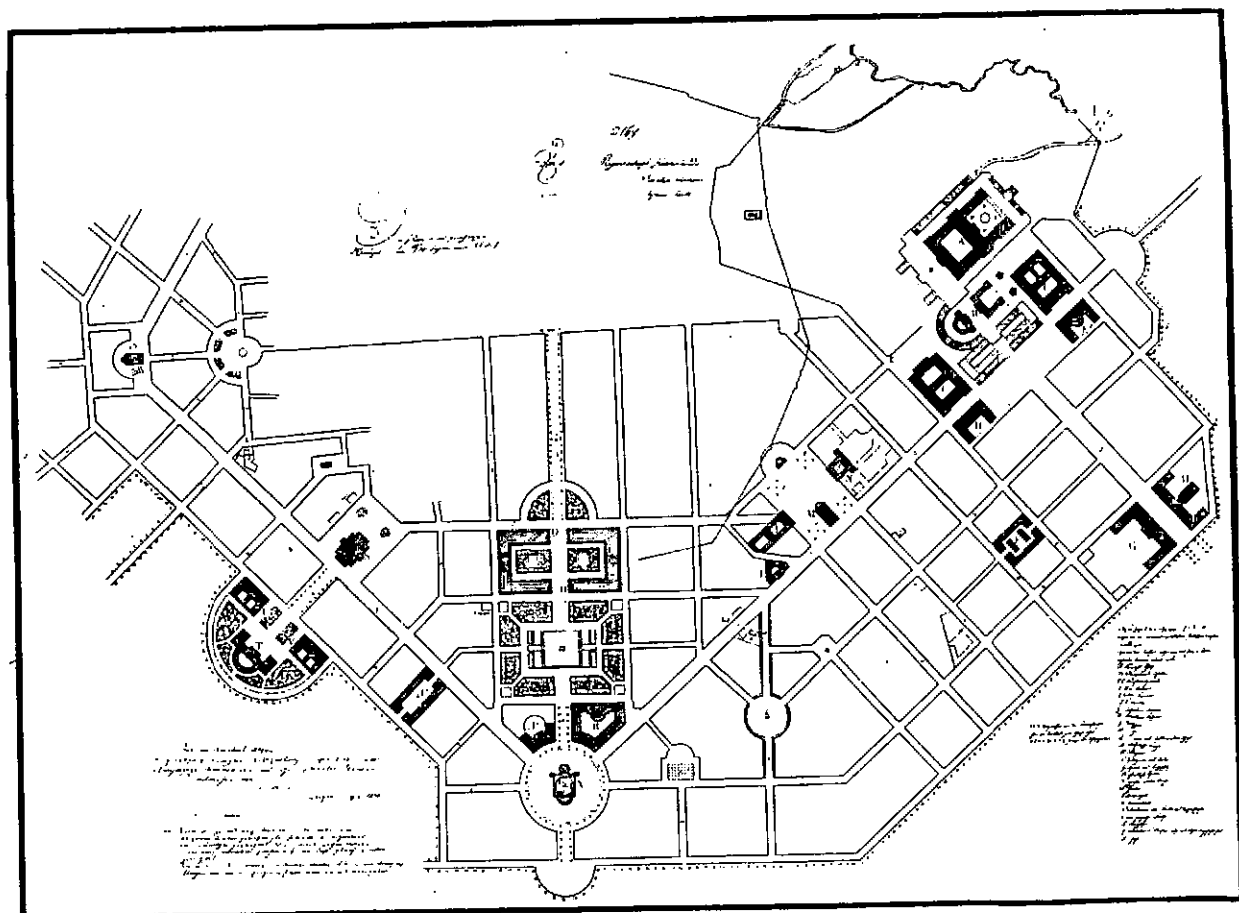
The State and society had a common aspect, derived from the glorious past. Therefore, the first attempts for the expropriation of buildings and areas near the Acropolis for archaeological excavations and restoration of monuments, began. In Literature, Romanticism prevailed, while an attempt appeared that held that the origins of today’s life stemmed from classic antiquity.

Since the State’s establishment, the first attempts were made for the organization of the city of Athens, including a large number of building plans and regulations.

The first Urban Plan of Athens, by St. Kleanthis and Ed. Schaubert, was a symmetrical, monumental composition adhering to the principles of German Neoclassicism in Urban Planning. It promoted the ancient heritage with a central North – South axis in the direction of the Acropolis (Athinas street), Piraeus street, as



9. The Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert, as approved by the government (source: Library of Archaeological Society)



10. The Plan of Athens by L. von Klentze (source: Biris 1996)

the 1st axis, was oriented towards Piraeus, Stadiou street, as the 2nd axis, towards the Palace and the Stadium, and Ermou street, as the 3rd axis East – West, connected Syntagma square with Monastiraki, thus forming, a triangle. At the apex of the triangle, the Royal Palace was placed, in Ottos' square (later called Omonia), with the Administrative Center in a semistar shaped layout. The two other squares in Piraeus and Stadiou Street and the squares of Klafthmonos and Eleftherias, were linked with a large boulevard (Evripidou), forming a symmetrical plan. (Burgel, 1976). It was an inspired plan of a neoclassical garden town adapted to the southern climate and to the Athenian landscape.

Four large "boulevards" encircled the most important district of the city, whilst in front of the palace, the People's Garden and the Market were created.

The first Urban Plan had foreseen future necessities and provided spaces for excavations, forbidding constructions to take place in archaeological sites. (Biris, 1996).

In 1834, Leo von Klenze, as a royal adviser, undertook the study for revising this new Urban Plan. He doubted the choices of the previous one, whilst maintaining the basic axes and, in order to avoid confrontations with the land owners caused by the first plan, he cancelled the boulevards, reduced the squares, archaeological sites and green areas, and increased the density. Its application however, was not successful either. Besides L. von Klenze did not imagine a population increase of more than 70.000 inhabitants. (Travlos, 1993).

A third plan revealing the commitment of foreign architects to the principles of classicism and their romantic inclination to antiquity, was created by K.F. Schinkel in 1834. He suggested that the Otto's Palace should be placed on the Acropolis, which was fortunately cancelled. The streets' construction had been facilitated by people who in many cases voluntarily offered their land (Markezinis, 1966). The first road constructed was Piraeus Street, in order to connect the city of Athens with the port, as the city communicated with Peloponese, the islands and the rest whole country only by sea.

With the steady inflow of dwellers from the province to Athens, the city population increased and new dwelling areas were created in the town's region. Working areas such as the Port of Piraeus, industries etc, attracted settlements of working classes in the surrounding vicinities, while many artisans and craftsmen gathered in Athens, owing to the construction of Public Buildings and infra structure works.

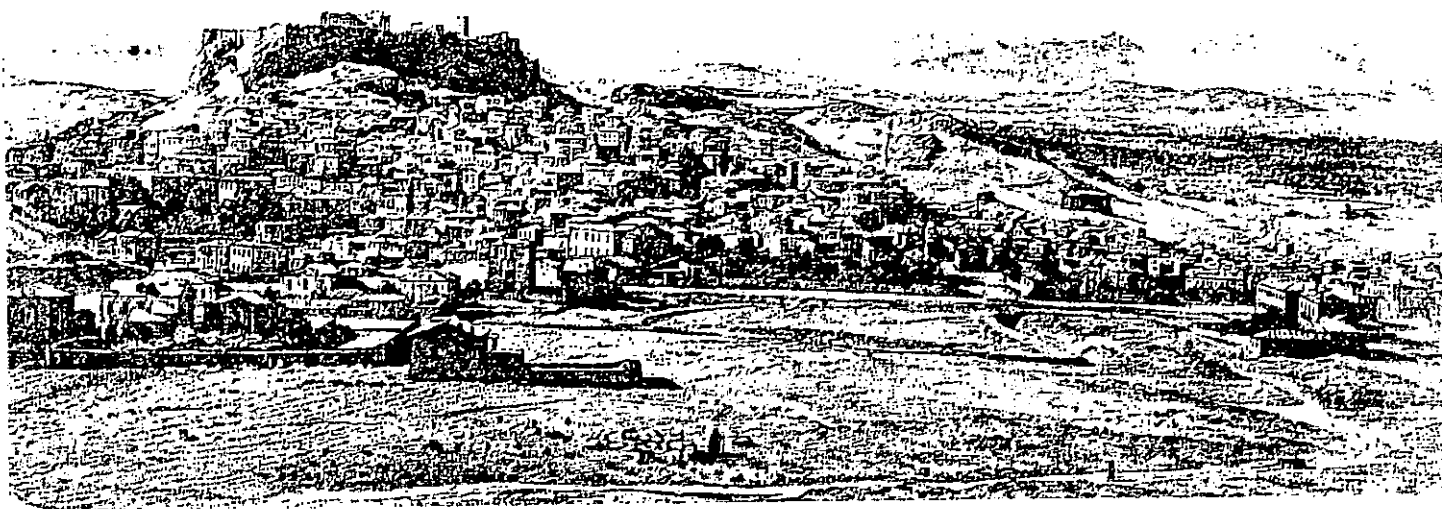
Simultaneously, the number of people employed in the tertiary sector, (Public Services) and in commerce was increasing.

Despite the poor scenery, the Athenian commerce evolved mostly in the streets of Eolou, Pandrossou, Hephestou, Ermou and Adrianou, as Plaka, the area in which these streets were situated, was the oldest and most dense part of the city, where the first houses were being built. The old streets of the city were uneven and unpaved and even the new ones had problems, such as Stadiou street, through which a stream flowed. (Travlos, 1993). This was the ancient river Iridanos and because of it, small wooden bridges were constructed until 1858, when the stream was covered.

The town of Athens, initially north of the Acropolis, now expanded into various directions, creating the quarters of Metaxourgion (west), Neapolis, (north – west,) and the area near the Palace (Kolonaki) (north – east). The first streets which were paved after Pireaus street, were the streets around the Market i.e. Kolokotroni, Adrianou, Athinas, Eolou, and Ermou. Patisson street was still a country road leading to the Mars Field, a promenade area, whose construction was finished in 1841. In Adrianou street, the first new houses were built, and the first city center was created there. In this area lived foreign ambassadors, while the Ministries of War, and of Naval Affairs, were installed in the area of Aerides (Winds), the Roman Market vicinity. (Iliopoulos, 2000). Pandrossou Street used to be the main commercial street, but Eolou street became the core of the city's commercial life, with important buildings such as hotels, banks, churches and luxurious shops. Ermou street which connected Syntagma square and Thission area, and its railway station, was planned to have 20m width. However, after the initiation of construction works, the intervention of landowners caused the street to narrow down, from Voulis street and beyond. Mitropoleos street had been completed later on, in 1842, when the Mitropolis (Cathedral) began to be constructed, as commerce had not been installed there. Its parallel, Mousson street was also constructed in the same period.

The Royal Decree of 1834 imposed a maximum of two storeys in the buildings on main streets and these surrounding Syntagma square, in order to maintain uniformity of the image of the city center.

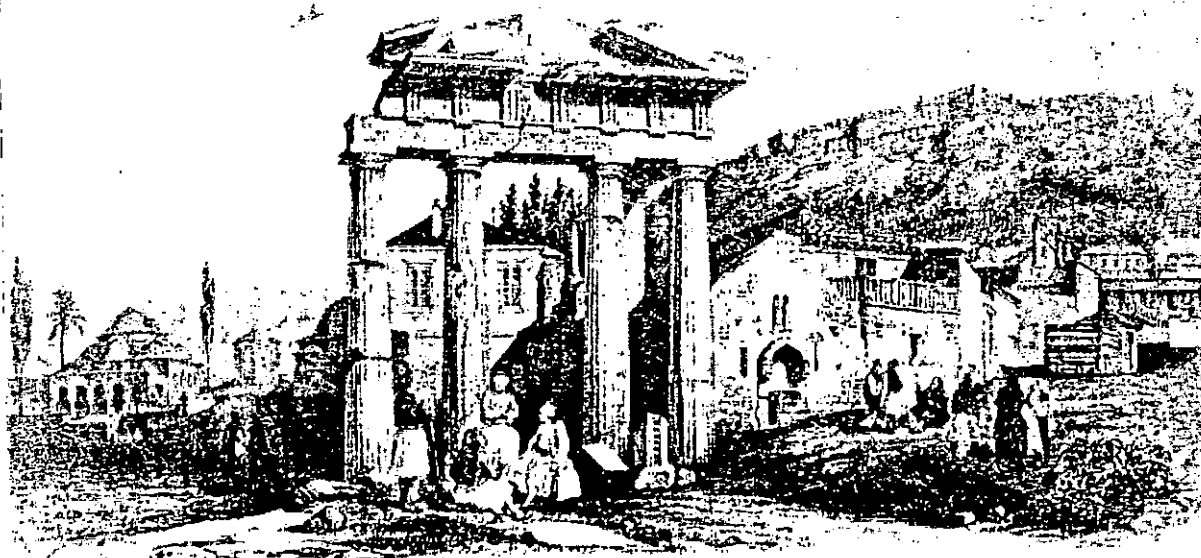
Important buildings were also being constructed during this period, by Greek and foreign architects such as the Military Hospital (G. Weiler 1839), the Observatory (Th. Hansen 1842), the University (Chr. Hansen 1839), schools such as Arsakion (L. Kaftatzoglou 1846), Varvakion, (P. Kalkos 1859), the Cathedral (Mitropolis) (Th.



13. Athens in 1843 (source: Biris 1996)



14. 3rd September 1843, general Kallergis claiming the ceding of Constitution
(J. Harris, 1843, source: Biris 1996)



15. Part of the city in the period of Otto's arrival, ruins of the Roman Agora and
(Theodoros Vryniotis, 1946, source: National Historic Museum)

Hansen, D. Zezos, Fr. Boulanger, 1860), the Academy (Th. Hansen, 1859) built in Neoclassical style, which also dominated the architecture of the houses belonging to the upper class.

Neoclassicism, which returned in Greece via the Bavarians, found its significance as a reconnection to the glorious antiquity. In this period however, it was applied with austerity due to limited economic means, reflected even in the Public Buildings. However, the morphological opulence and the variety of traditional elements offered a pleasant image to the city.

Otto's monarchy placed the foundations for an urban social structure, creating a capital of industrial and shipping evolution, but at the same time, many kinds of feudal production still survived. In 1835, Athens acquired Municipal Authorities and a Council. The first Mayor was elected, Dr. A. Petrakis, who forwarded the construction of the Municipal Hospital in Acadimias street, which was not included in the City Plan yet. Since its establishment in 1835, the Municipality of Athens had no sovereign rights on city's matters, but could only express an opinion. In 1836, residents in Athens had reached 16588.

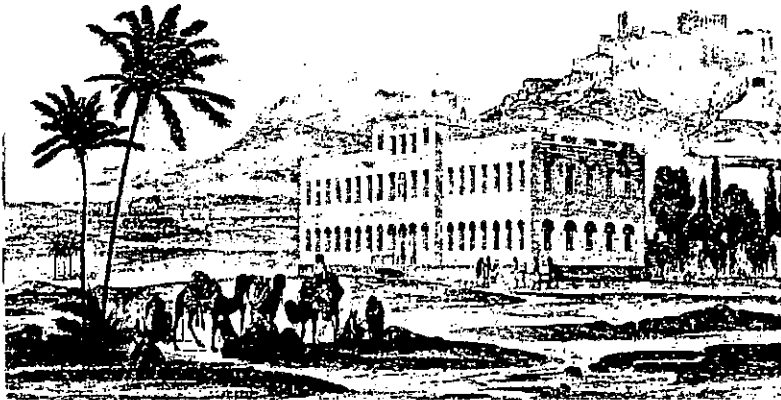
The Market area, extending from Monastiraki to Adrianou street, gathered all classes, but each class had its own area, in order to meet up and discuss about political events. (Scaltsa, 1983).

The most popular Town squares in this period were Dimopratiirou (Auction) Square, Louis' 1st (Ludwig) square (later called Municipal Theater's), surrounded by important buildings such as the National Bank (1845-1890), Melas' House, later the Town Hall (1874) in Athinas street and the Municipal Theater (1873), according the Kleanthis – Schaubert plan. In this place, a large garden of 44.000m² (the People's Garden) was scheduled by the first Urban Plan, but it has been reduced in 1851 to half its size, in order to construct eight building blocks. (Scaltsa, 1983). At the same time, Athinas street planned to become a large boulevard, was converted into a narrow, commercial road. Otto's square was still considered to be very far from the center. The same applied to the square in front of the Royal Palace. Otto's square was renamed Omonia (Concord) square with the hope to stop conflicts following Otto's expulsion. Due to the same fact, the other square in Piraeus street, was named Elefterias (Liberty's) square.

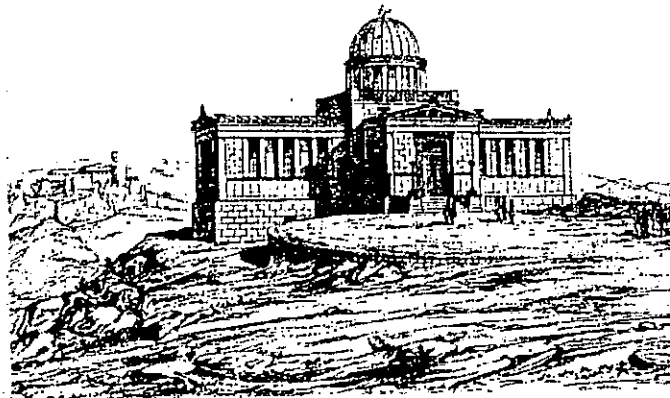
Monastiraki (Little Convent, due to the presence of a Convent there) Square, was a lively Market area, with the Flea Market operating next to it. Klafthmonos square,



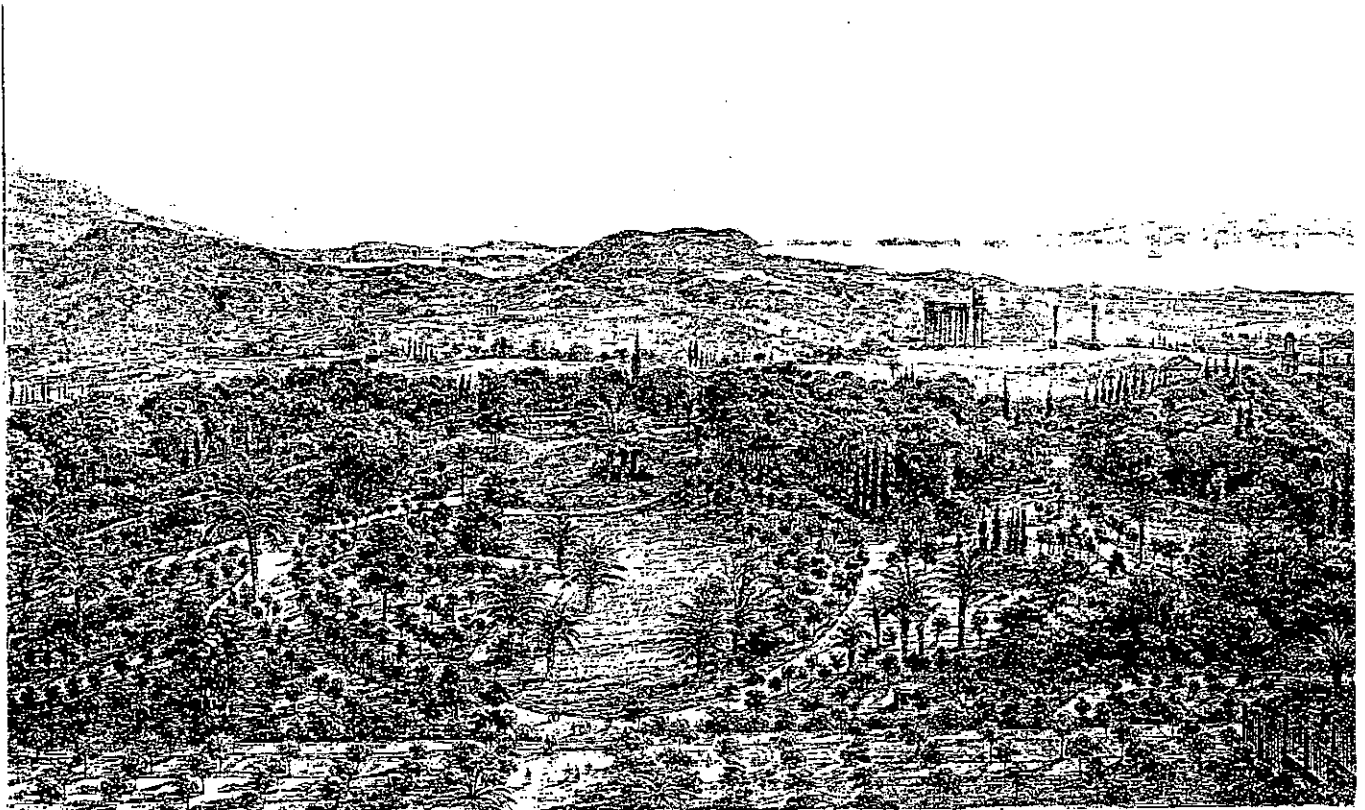
16. The University (Chr. Hansen, 1839, source: author's collection)



17. The Military Hospital (G. Weiler, 1834, source: Biris 1996)



18. The Observatory (Th. Hansen 1842, source: Biris 1996)



19. The Royal Garden with Olympian Zeus' Temple in the background (M. Vreto 1861, source: National Gallery)

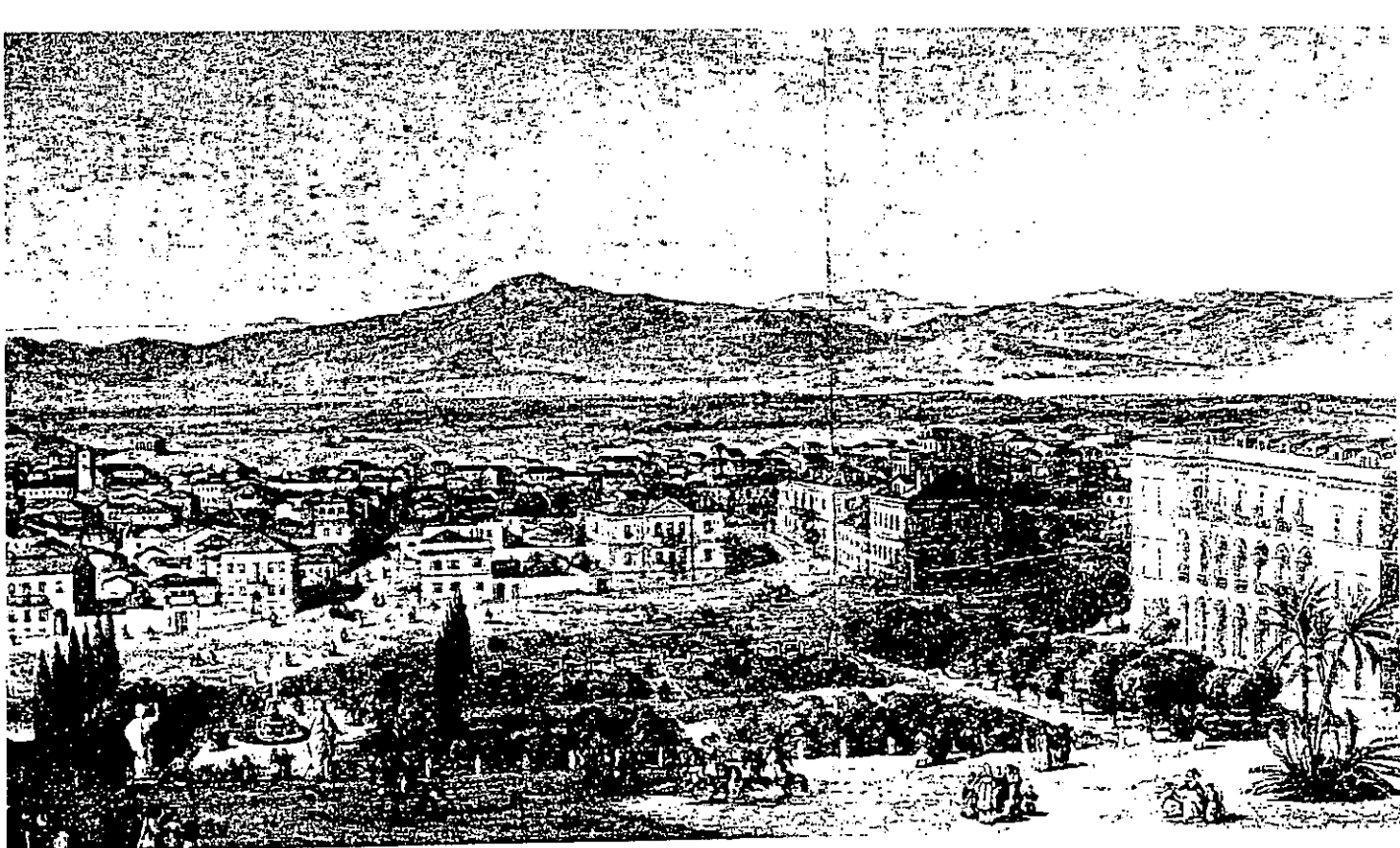
where was the first residence of King Otto, before the construction of the Palace, was the first square leveled and planted. It had a Public Service character, as a number of employees used to gather there, due to the presence of the Mint, and later on the Ministry of Finance, which was built in the center of the square. Moreover, the southern part was planted as garden.

A very important building in Athens, was of course Otto's Palace, which had been built on a rise, according to the drawings by Fr. Von Gartner (1836-1840). These were contrary to the proposals made in Kleanthis - Schaubert and Klenze's Plans and was quite isolated from the old city. Dimitriou's residence (Th. Hansen 1842) was the first building built next to the Palace. As all other buildings in the square, it was built under the approval of King Otto. The space in front of the palace, (Palace square) held a significance by position, and had been shaped and planted according to the drawings by Th. Hansen. In 1843, it was renamed Syntagma (Constitution) Square. Since then, the city was divided into eastern and western regions: The formal center in the eastern part of the city was composed of residences of upper classes, while the manufactures and the working class residences were situated in the western part. (Biris, 1996).

Open Public Spaces during this period, were some-how the "Theatrical Spaces", where people gathered to observe the appearance and behaviour of the upper classes, and be entertained, and informed on all new events. In special cases, as on celebration days, people used to dance to the music of improvised bands, or participate in carnival festivities and athletic games. (Scaltsa, 1983).

Other less important Open Public Spaces of that period, were the squares of St. Theodori, Geraniou, (St. Constantine), the square in front of Varvakion school and the New Market, Kapnikarea (with the Byzantine church). Furthermore, the Mars' Field, a space for Cavalry exercises, was used as a country place for promenades, for the King and the upper class, where the Palace's band played on Sundays. (Scaltsa, 1983).

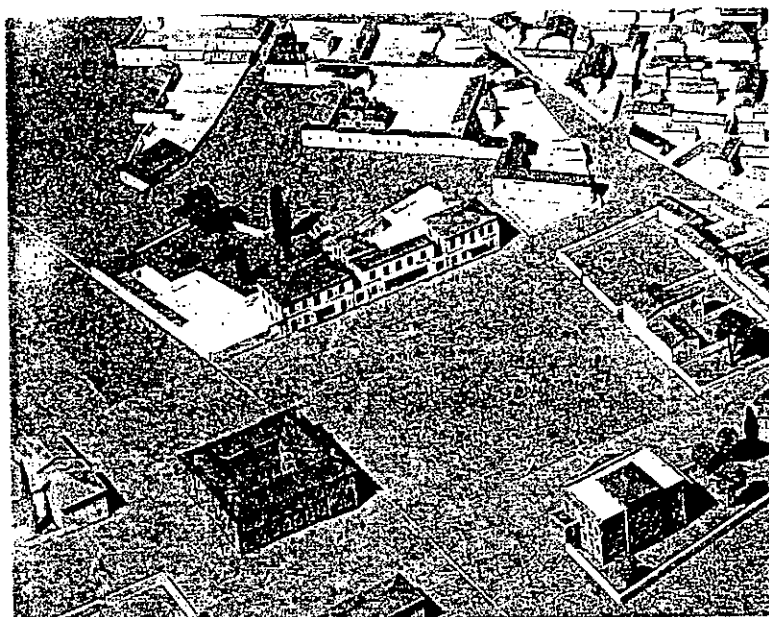
The complex of three buildings, the University, the Academy and the National Library, designed by Th. and Chr. Hansen brothers, consisted one of the city's principal Public Spaces. In this space, as well as in front of the Palace, political rallies often took place.



20. Constitution Square, view from the Royal Palace (Ul. Halbreiter, 1842, source: Papageorgiou – Venetas 1999)



21. Arsakion School (L. Kaftatzoglou, 1844, source: Biris 1996)



22. Klafthmonos Square with the Royal Mint and Otto's first residence in 1842
(source: Ministry of Culture, 1989)

In 1835, the streets and squares were illuminated with oil lamps and later on with gas. They were merely leveled areas, planted with trees and only few of them were paved with stones.

The image of the city reflected the State's poor financial condition, and still had an Eastern or rather Turkish character with its wooden constructions, while water supplied only by each district's public fountains.

New dwelling buildings were constructed along the main streets of the city. The neoclassical houses usually had a court yard. These yard spaces were united with the Open Public Spaces, in a continuation of open spaces.

The working class settlement issue never acquired the gravity of relevant issues in Europe, despite the disagreeable situation.

On the other hand, Greek bourgeoisie is characterized among other things, also by its relationship with landed property.

Contrary to other capitalistic countries, Greek State during 19th century, was opposing to the formation of large land properties.

Following the National Independence, the State was not progressive enough, so to distribute the lands which were liberated when Turks departed, to landless peasants. Besides, the State did not yield to middle and upper class landowners' demands and kept the lands for its own use : It proceeded to the nationalization of these "National Lands" and embodied them to the "State Revenue Office".

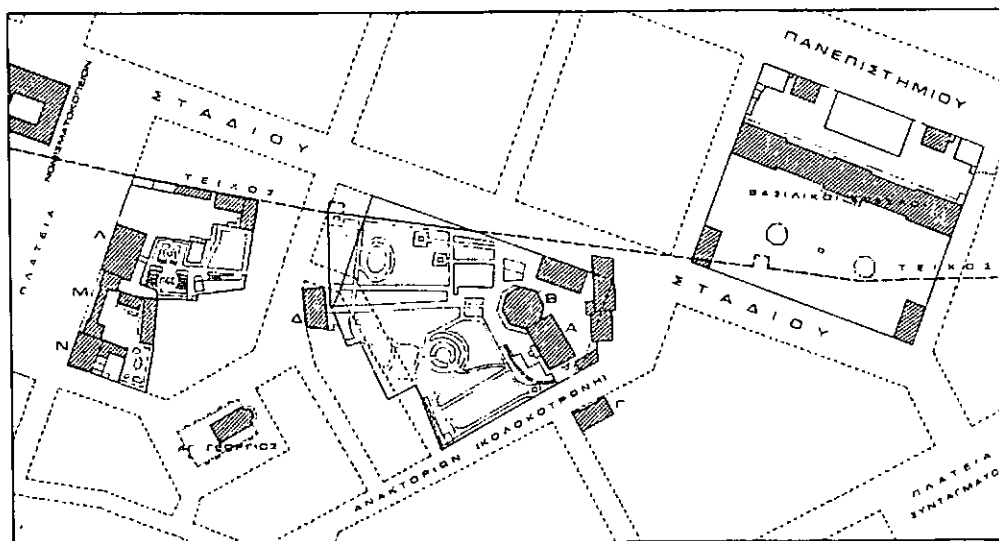
Later on, the State allowed a progressive distribution of a small quantity of areas to farmers, with a number of Legislative acts (Laws of 10th February 1932, 24th June 1843, 20th February 1848, 16th October 1856).

The spirit of these acts is reflected in the Constitutions of 1844 and 1864 and was completed with a real agrarian reformation in 1871, by the prime minister Al. Koumoundouros. (Giseli 1984).

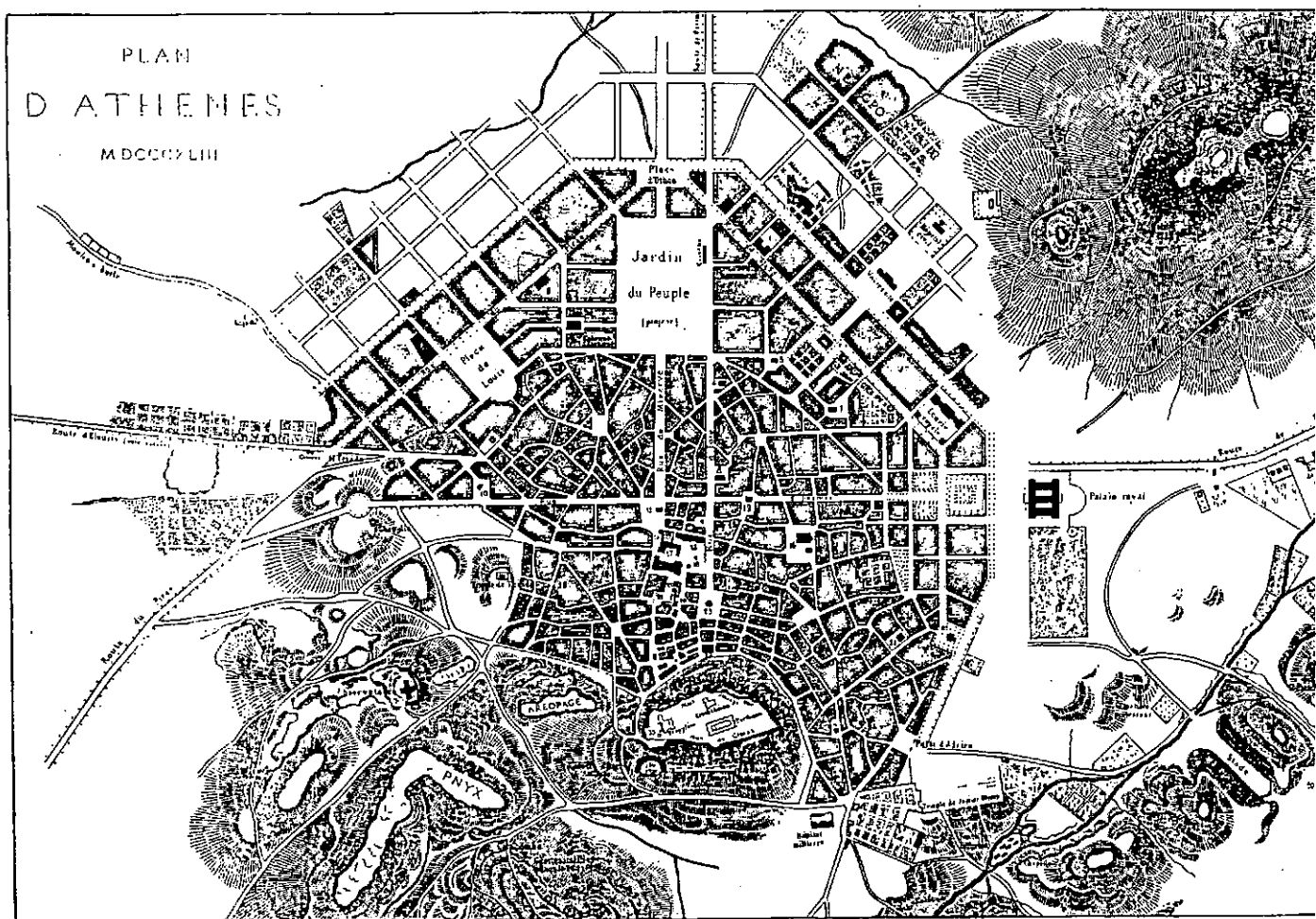
The result of these reforms was the parceling out of 2.650.000 stremmas to 357.217 small holdings. (Vergopoulos 1975).

By these actions the State favoured the social incorporation of Agriculture on the basis of small family enterprises owing small holdings and discouraged the formation of large land properties.

The urban real estate was under the same context, thus the owners of large Athenian estates were very few.



23. The temporary Otto's residence, the first (Α) and the second (Α, Μ, Ν), at right the Royal Stables (source: Biris 1996)



24. The streets' layout in Athens in 1843 (Chevanard, source: Biris 1996)

The rising middle class was content with the possession of one landed property, just for the building of a house and not as a speculative element. In this way the State attempted to increase the public revenues, as well as the income of Banks and Commerce.

In 1841, a part of the Royal Garden, adjacent to the Palace, had been shaped and planted by the German agriculturalist P. Schmarat. He was invited by Queen Amalia, to create the first garden in Stadiou street, where was the first dwelling of the King. He then planted trees along the avenues Panepistimiou, Kifissias, Amalias. Later on, in collaboration with Fr. Schmidt and the Queen, the Royal Garden was designed in a free layout, according to the English garden style. This was situated adjacent to the palace, in an area of 16 hectares. Amalia placed under her protection the Athenian Landscape and additionally created, in the area of Eptalofou, a large farm with many kinds of trees, that still exists today (Queen's Tower). (Biris, 1996). The natural landscape dominated the city and the rocky hills of the Acropolis and Lycabettus Hill (Anchesmos) were still visible from all angles, consisting orientation landmarks of the city.

In 1857, Psiri (Heroes') square and Louis' square had begun to take shape and all streets surrounding the University and the "Commercial Triangle" were under construction. This was a difficult task, as there were many gullies, streams and rocky rises. (Iliopoulos 2000). A number of popular spectacles took place in the Open Spaces, such as horse racing, acrobatic feats, athletic games etc.

Public Spaces as coffee shops, taverns, clubs, and country cafeterias, which mostly operated in the open air, were the meeting points of various social classes. They were also the areas, where ideas were conceived regarding European movements and marches for political demonstrations started.

In this period (1835), the first theaters presented musical and heroic plays which copied Western fashions.

In 1857, the first efforts were made for the construction of the steam-power railway to Piraeus, which was completed in 1869. In 1862, the gas production plant began its operation. (Sariyannis, 2000). Thus, Central Public Spaces could now be lit with gas. During the Ottonian period, the city started progressively to create its urban structure by tracing streets and squares on the bare landscape. The erection of the first buildings, also formed the image of a small, attractive city of neoclassical character.

At the end of this period, Athens was a city of contradictions, offering impressions of oriental and European nature in the appearance of the built environment and its inhabitants. Social life evolved around the Market and in a number of covered Public areas, such as taverns, which were favoured by the lower classes, cafés (Cafenía). Cafés firstly emerged in the Market area, and were frequented by the lower classes, whilst cafés situated in Syntagma Square and in the city center, were patronized by the middle and upper classes, (Scaltsa, 1983). Clubs, were mostly used by the upper classes.

2.2. The period following Otto (1862-1880)

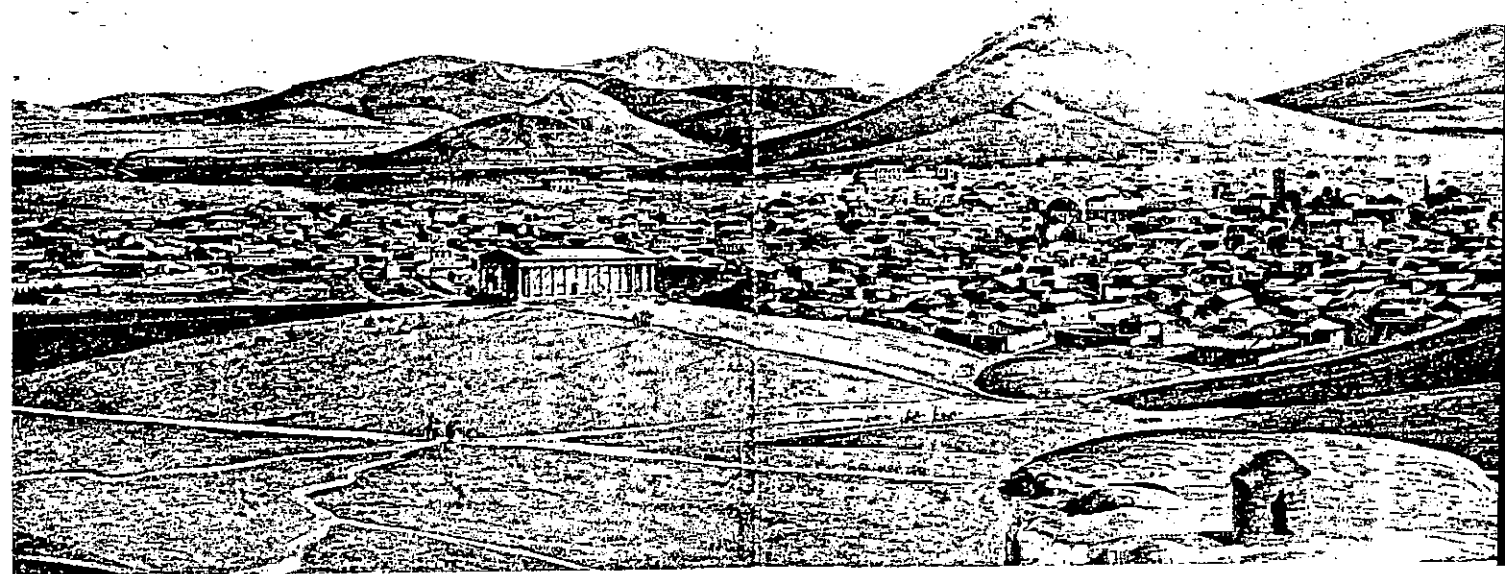
Since 1850, an industrial society was being created in Europe, that started to control the politics and economics of the rest of the World. Greece being in the region of Europe, was directly dependant on the Capitalistic Countries, (England, France, Germany) and constituted the access to Eastern Markets.

When George I, from the Danish Glycksburg dynasty succeeded Otto to the throne (1863), England assigned the Ionian islands to Greece, as a mark of friendship. A new Constitution had been voted (1864), establishing the Royal Democracy. The development of cities and the broadening of the middle classes, the initial efforts towards elementary industrialization since 1860 and the gradual rise of the bourgeois class, favoured the regime's smooth function.

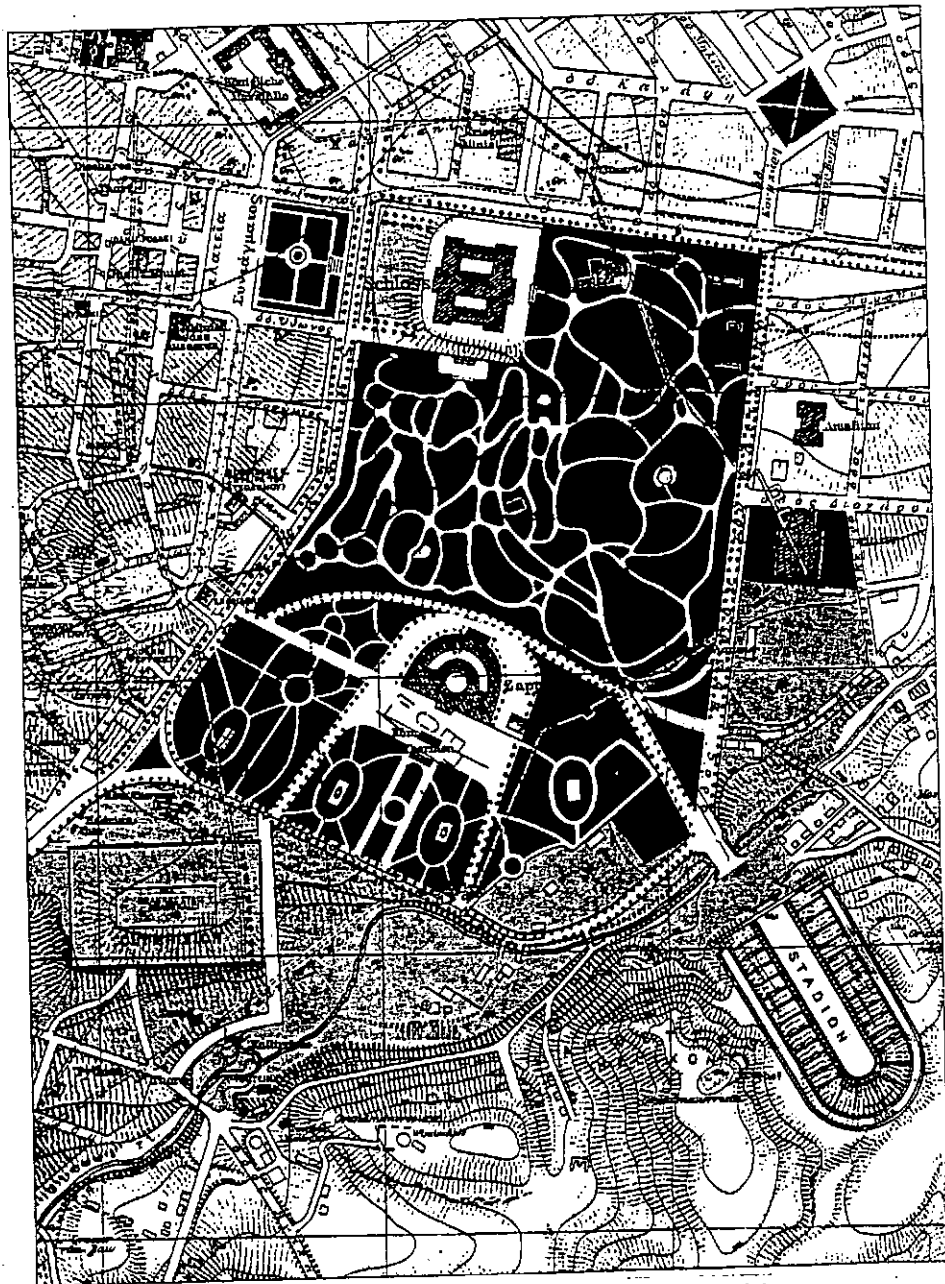
The Greek Communities in Balkans region continued to hold the highest position in the economies of these countries. (Svoronos, 1976).

Manufacture failed to develop, whilst Shipping, with sail-boats failed to compete steamships. In 1864, the State followed the desires of the industrialists and allowed by decree, the expansion of the City Plan to the north-west. This was strictly made for industrial installations. The silk industry, installed in 1855, was responsible for the creation of the working class district, called Metaxourgion. The area of Proastio (Suburb) included Exarchia, Solonos, and the second part of Vassilissis Sofias avenue was incorporated in the City Plan in 1865. However, the houses' constructions had already commenced. At the same period the Kanning square had also been formed.

During this period, means for rural production remained the same, along with small property holdings. These two facts did not help the evolution of this field.



27. View of the south part of Athens in 1835, with the natural Landscape
(F. Stademann, 1835, source: Ministry of Culture, 1989)



28. The Royal Palace, the Royal Garden, Constitution Square and Stadium and the
Green areas along Ilissos river (source: Papagerogiou – Venetas, 1999)

After a sequence of agrarian revolts, in 1871, State owned (National) Land had been distributed to landless peasants, in order to create a class of small holders.

European socialistic ideas appeared in Greece around 1875, while the effort for liberation of the occupied Greek areas was spreading.

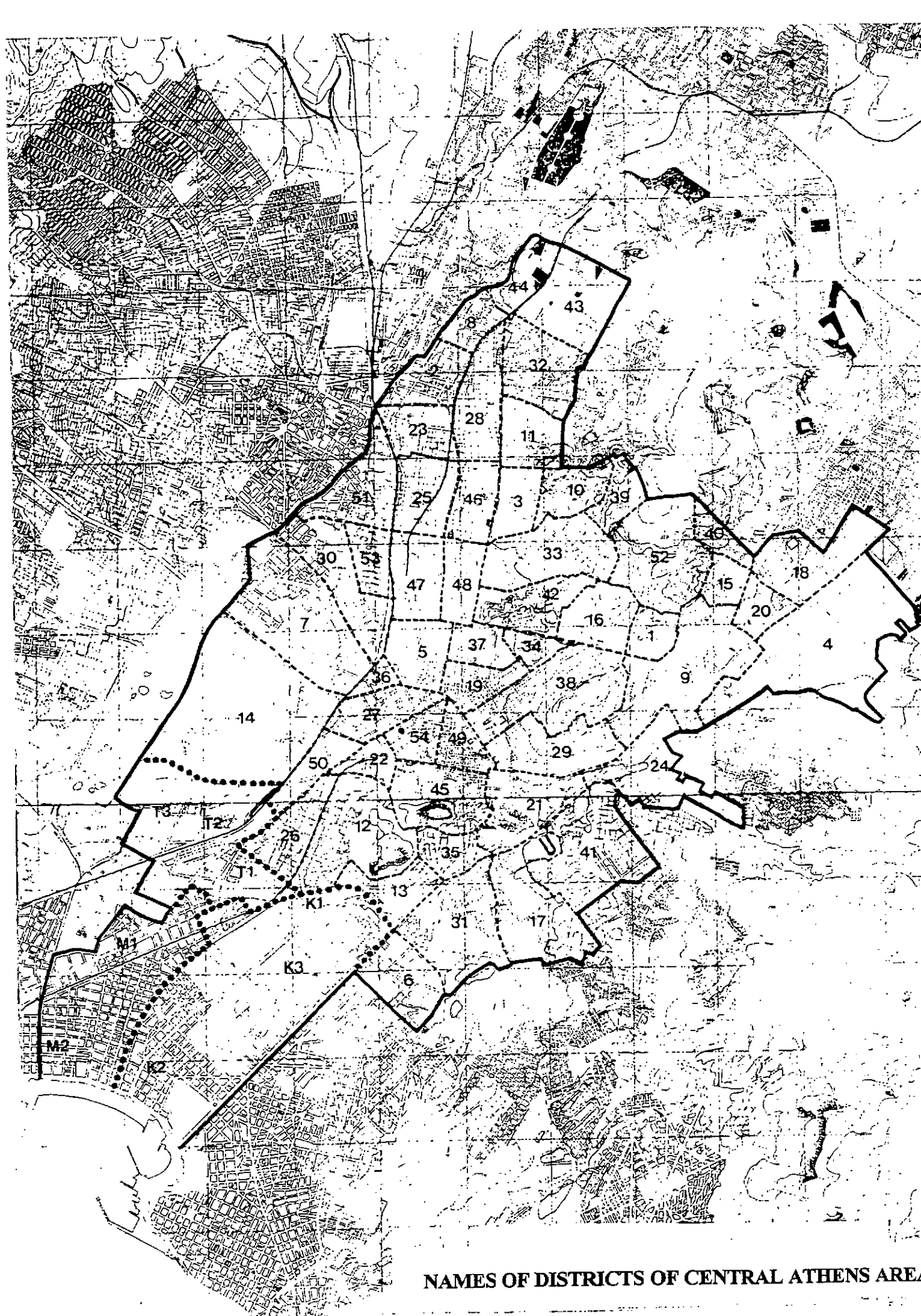
The city population increased from 42.000 inhabitants in 1865, to 65.000 in 1880, reaching in 1890 114.355 inhabitants, while the economy was growing with the import and export commerce. (Markezinis 1966). The lower middle class, composed of the new urban population, was the social class evolving in this period. The lower middle class was reproduced through the State mechanism, and the number of civil servants increased.

The bourgeois class was also evolving, with the predominance of a new generation of merchants. This generation started to influence the political structure by supporting liberal forces, while conservatives were supported by the landowners. (Tsoukalas, 1968).

In the economic and Social field, the inflow of foreign capital (1879), the foundation of banking system and the construction of large works for the country's economic development, were the characteristics of this period. The census of 1879, showed the end of a period of decentralized economy and the transition into a period of economic concentration in few industrial and urban centers.

Athens with its University became the cultural center of Hellenism. (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000). At the same time, Literature and Theater were dominated by the Romanticism with its archaic and populist elevations.

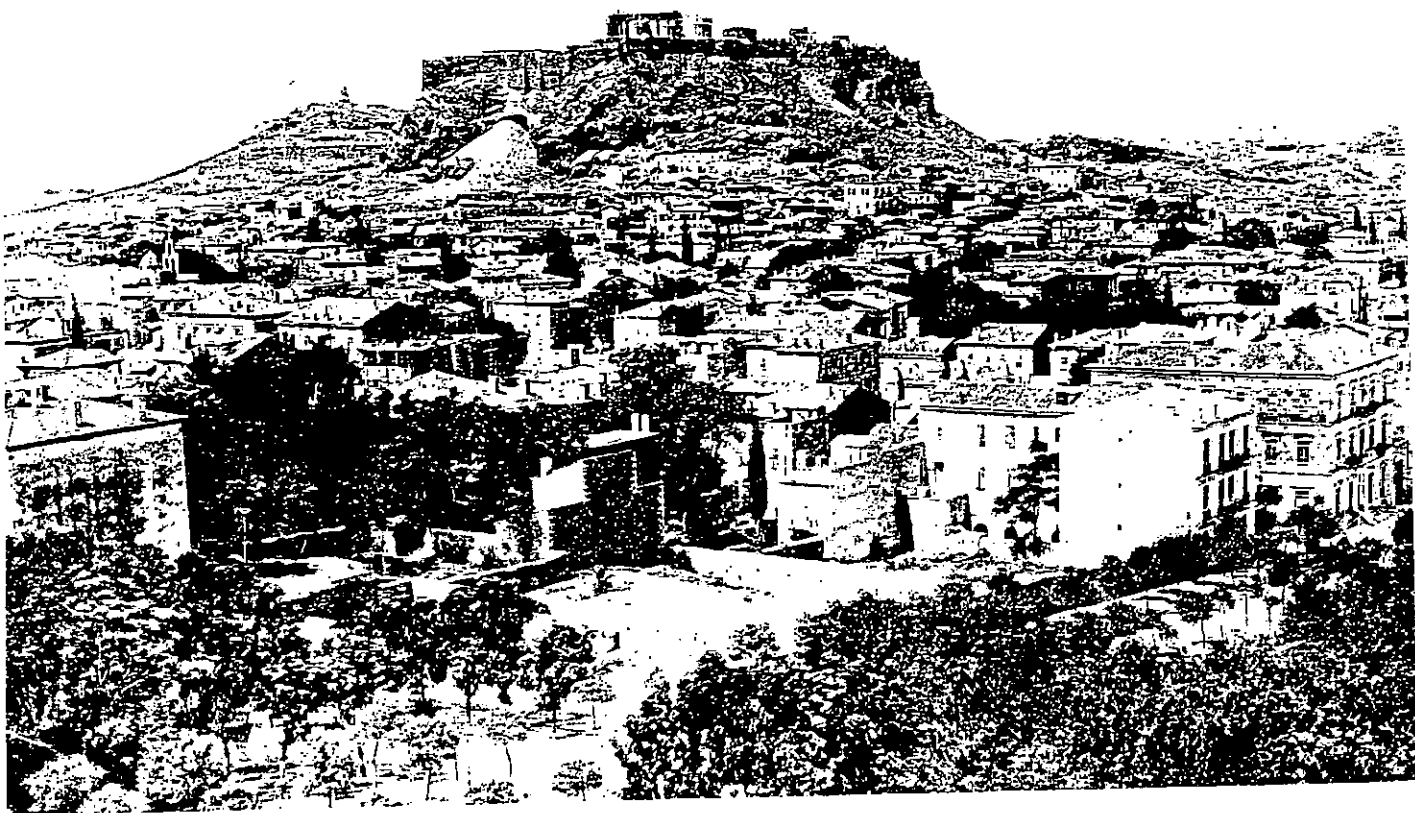
During this period, considerable buildings of neoclassical style were under construction, that were important for the development, and the European image of the city. These were, the Archeological Museum, (P. Kalkos 1880), the National Technical University (Polytechnio) (L. Kafatzoglou 1870), Zappion (F. Boulanger, Th. Hansen, 1888), the Town Hall (P. Kalkos, 1874), the Municipal Theater (E. Ziller 1889), the Parliament (P. Kalkos 1890), Schliemann's house (E. Ziller 1879), the New Market (1886). The construction of many of these buildings was made possible thanks to donations and endowments by Greek benefactors. Most of these buildings had significant public spaces in front of them. Substructure works were also constructed, such as the restoration of Hadrian's water tank (Dexameni) on Lycabettus Hill, the railway connecting Athens and Piraeus, (1869) the Gas lighting of Central Public spaces, (1862) and the railway from Athens to Lavrion (1885). At this time, all the



NAMES OF DISTRICTS OF CENTRAL ATHENS AREA

Municipality of Athens

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Averof | 28. Koliatsou |
| 2. Ag. Eleftherios | 29. Kolonaki |
| 3. Ag. Zoni | 30. Kolonos |
| 4. Ag. Thomas | 31. Kinosargous |
| 5. Ag. Pavlos | 32. Kipriadou |
| 6. Ag. Sostis | 33. Kypseli |
| 7. Acadimia Platonos | 34. Strefi Hill |
| 8. Alissida | 35. Makriyanni |
| 9. Ambelokip | 36. Metaxourgio |
| 10. Ano Kypseli | 37. Mouseum |
| 11. Ano Patissia | 38. Neapoli |
| 12. Ano Petralona | 39. Nea Kypseli |
| 13. Veikou | 40. Nea Philothei |
| 14. Votanikos | 41. Pagrati |
| 15. Girokomio | 42. Mars Fiel |
| 16. Gyzi | 43. Lambrini |
| 17. Gouva | 44. Perissos |
| 18. Ellinorrossou | 45. Plaka |
| 19. Exarchia | 46. Agamon square |
| 20. Erythros Stavros | 47. Attica square |
| 21. Zappio | 48. Victoria square |
| 22. Thissio | 49. Klafthmonos square |
| 23. Thymarakia | 50. Rouf |
| 24. Ilissia | 51. Sepolia |
| 25. Kato Patissia | 52. Tourkovounia |
| 26. Kato Petralona | 53. Skouze |
| 27. Keramikos | 54. Psiri |



30. The south-east side of Athens in 1840 (source: Kathimerini)



31. The Thission area towards the Royal Palace with the bridge over the steam –
powered train to Piraeus (1870, source: Biris 1996)

central streets and squares had been surfaced and planted (Markezinis, 1966). Omonia and Constitution (Syntagma) squares composed every day walking routes, attracting the middle classes to their cafés, which were mainly widely spread covered public spaces. The most luxurious of them followed the French style. In 1876, the decision for the construction of two new important avenues had been taken. These were Sygrou avenue, connecting the area of the Olympian Zeus' temple with Faliro, and Alexandras avenue connecting Patission street and Ambelokipi area. Their construction however, had been delayed for twenty years.

The neoclassical buildings, built around Constitution Square, created, together with the upper and middle classes which gathered there, an urban atmosphere. This square was the center of political life of Athens. So many political arguments were held in its cafés and open spaces, that the whole lower (southern) part of it became a huge outdoor café. Constitution square, may be because of the existence of the Palace, became the center of the city, and all the main streets started from this place.

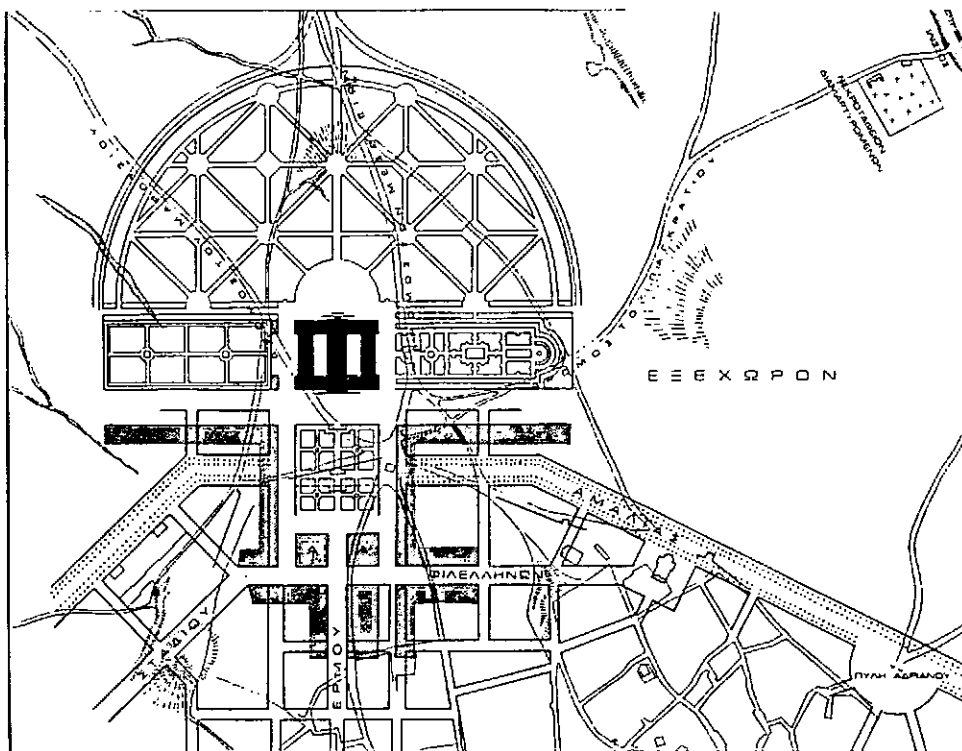
The city population increased with the arrival of Greek emigrants from Egypt in 1879, and became, according to a census of that year, 63.374 inhabitants (Markezinis, 1966). This new social element enriched Athenian society and helped the evolution of the bourgeoisie, which built big neoclassical houses on Panepistimiou, Amalias, and Kifissias street. At the same time, other social classes imitated the style, by building smaller, single or double storey houses.

The city in this period extended from the Military Hospital in Makriyanni district and the Royal Garden, to the National Technical University, Kolonaki square, and Thission area.

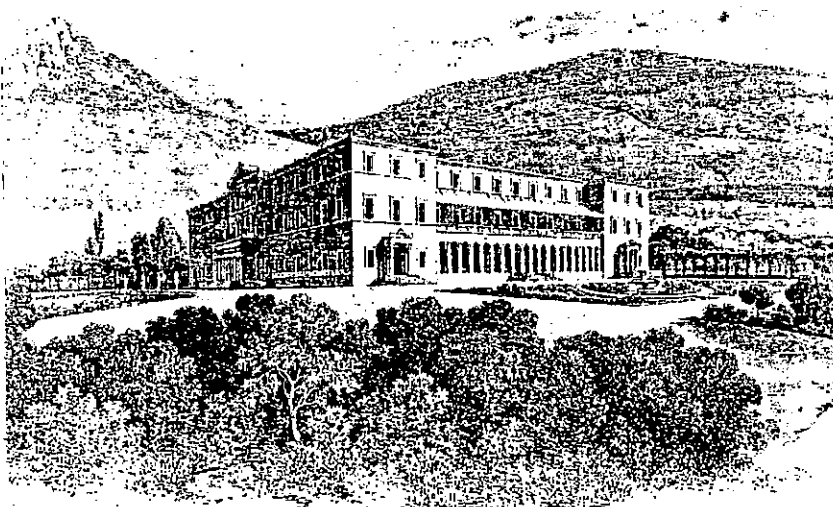
Further than that, an isolated suburb, Ano Patisia, had also been founded. Ten years later, another suburb was added, Kato Patissia, including the streets Ag. Meletiou, Patission and Knossou . These City Plan expansions were mostly caused by the economic intents of the land owners.

The first accurate topographical drawing had been elaborated by J. Kaupert for the German Archeological Institute, showed the area of the city and the surrounding landscape, with the large "Eleonas" (Olive Plantation) area in the western part.

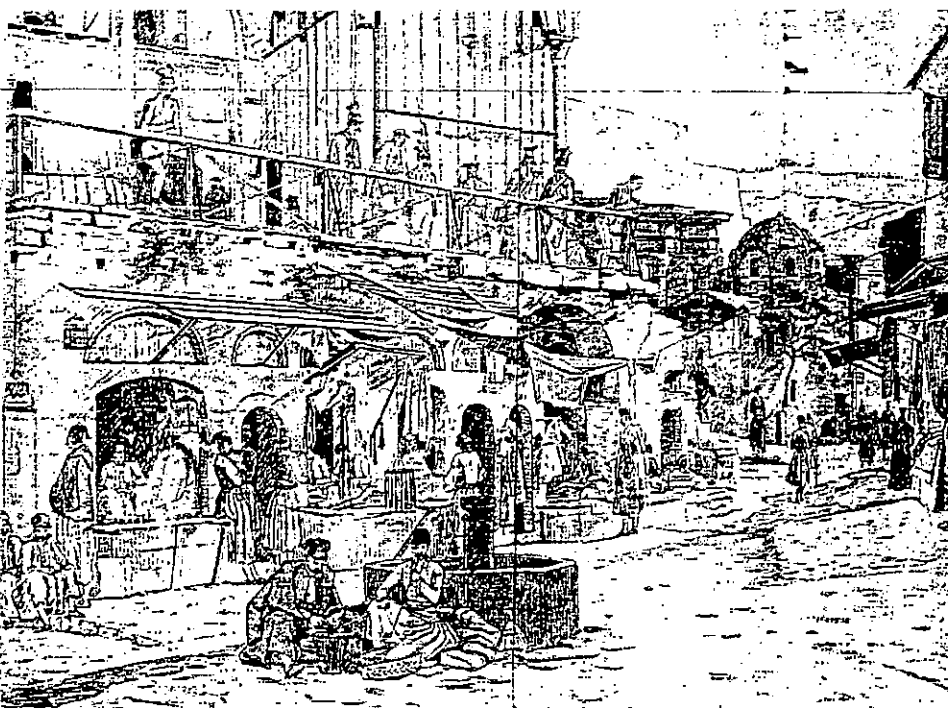
The lower social classes were settled in the Western region (Gazohori), while on the North – Eastern side of Acropolis, an arbitrary, island-like settlement was built, by workers from Anafi island (Anafiotica). (Biris 1987).



32. Plan by Fr. Gartner with the Palace, the garden in front and two Ministries' buildings (source: Biris 1996)



33. Drawing of the Palace (Fr. Gartner, 1836, source: Biris 1996)



34. Scene from the old market in Monastiraki (M. Rorbye, 1836, source: Ministry of Culture, National Gallery 2000)

This period had been the most important for the city's Open Public Spaces. The most considerable Open Public Spaces were being created and formed, with significant buildings built on their perimeter.

The squares were spaces for walk and amusement, mainly these built in the city center. (Omonia, Constitution). Most residents were drawn to squares in order to be entertained by the Palace Band and follow the movements, the political arguments that took place in the various cafés, and the festivities.

Western type entertainments were set up, as the music played in amusement spaces, like the "café-chantants", or the country music-halls in Ilissos gardens. The first theaters appeared around Omonia Square, which became a center of amusements, planted with palm trees and having a marble podium for the band and orators, who used to narrate speeches to the public (Athens Ekdotiki, 1978). Constitution square acquired hotels for foreign visitors and Ermou street started to become a commercial street with many luxurious shops (Scaltsa, 1983). Since 1870, the construction of Constitution square had been completed, with tree plantations and a big marble fountain, in accordance to the historic existence of the Muses' Garden in this place during ancient times. In 1872, two famous buildings started to be constructed on the northern side of the square. These were the Scouloudis' and Vouros' mansions, with famous cafés on the ground floor, which were developed into significant political and literary centers of Athens in this period. Many other buildings on the square were also related to important events of various historic periods.

Louis (Ludwig) square, with the National Bank, acquired another important building, the Municipal Theater (or New Theater, in distinction to the first one), (E. Ziller 1889).

By its completion, the rest of the square, although half in size than that of today had been planted with palm trees completing its neoclassic atmosphere. (Scaltsa, 1983). Louis' square had an integrated character surrounded by elegant buildings in a Neoclassic and Enlightenment style, of a rather small area, but familiar, its center occupied by trees and bushes, and had large sidewalks to the side of the Theater, with cafés frequented by the bourgeoisie.

Klathmonos (or Mint's) square which had been formed as a garden with pines, cypresses and planes in the southern half of its area, did not have so many visitors, except public employees, probably because cafés never operated in its space. Later on, the Ministries of Finance, Interior, and Nautical Affairs were installed there. Auction



35. Plan of Athens, comparing the area of the city in 1833 (dark area) with the situation in 1950 (C. Biris, source: Travlos 1993)

square, which initially had a great deal of activity, now declined and became an area mostly for auctioning antiques. In 1870, a construction boom took place in Athens and around Omonia Square, which became an Athenian local center. (Biris 1987).

Another square on the west of Omonia, was the place where a new church, St. Constantine was built, following the birth of the crown-prince Constantine, in 1871. New squares such as Kanning, Kolonaki (1864), Victoria (1870) and Voulis square (in front of the Parliament), as well as the space in front of the trilogy, i.e. University, Library and Academy, were very significant for Athenian social life and were frequented mostly by the middle and upper classes.

The area along Ilissos river, near the Stadium, became an entertainment area since 1871, when many theaters and music halls were installed on the green.

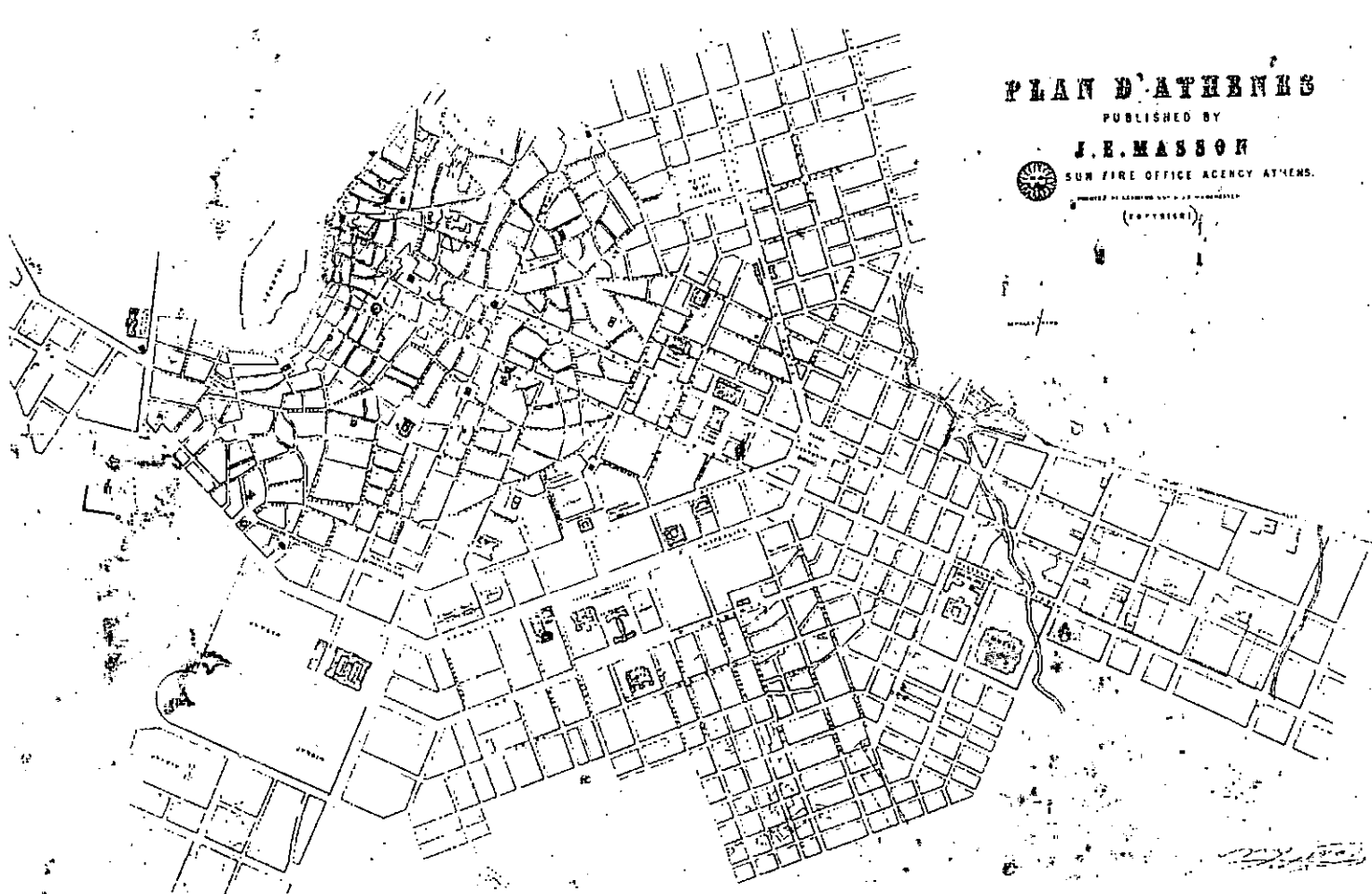
Rows of trees along the main streets, consisted the background for Athenians' promenades during this period.

In 1878, the reforestation of the hills near the city started, with the plantation of the Lycabettus hill with pine trees. The natural landscape surrounding the city was harmed by the operation of quarries on the hills of Lycabettus, Philopappou, Strefi and Kolonos. The quarries provided building materials and instigated a number of protests from the intellectuals.

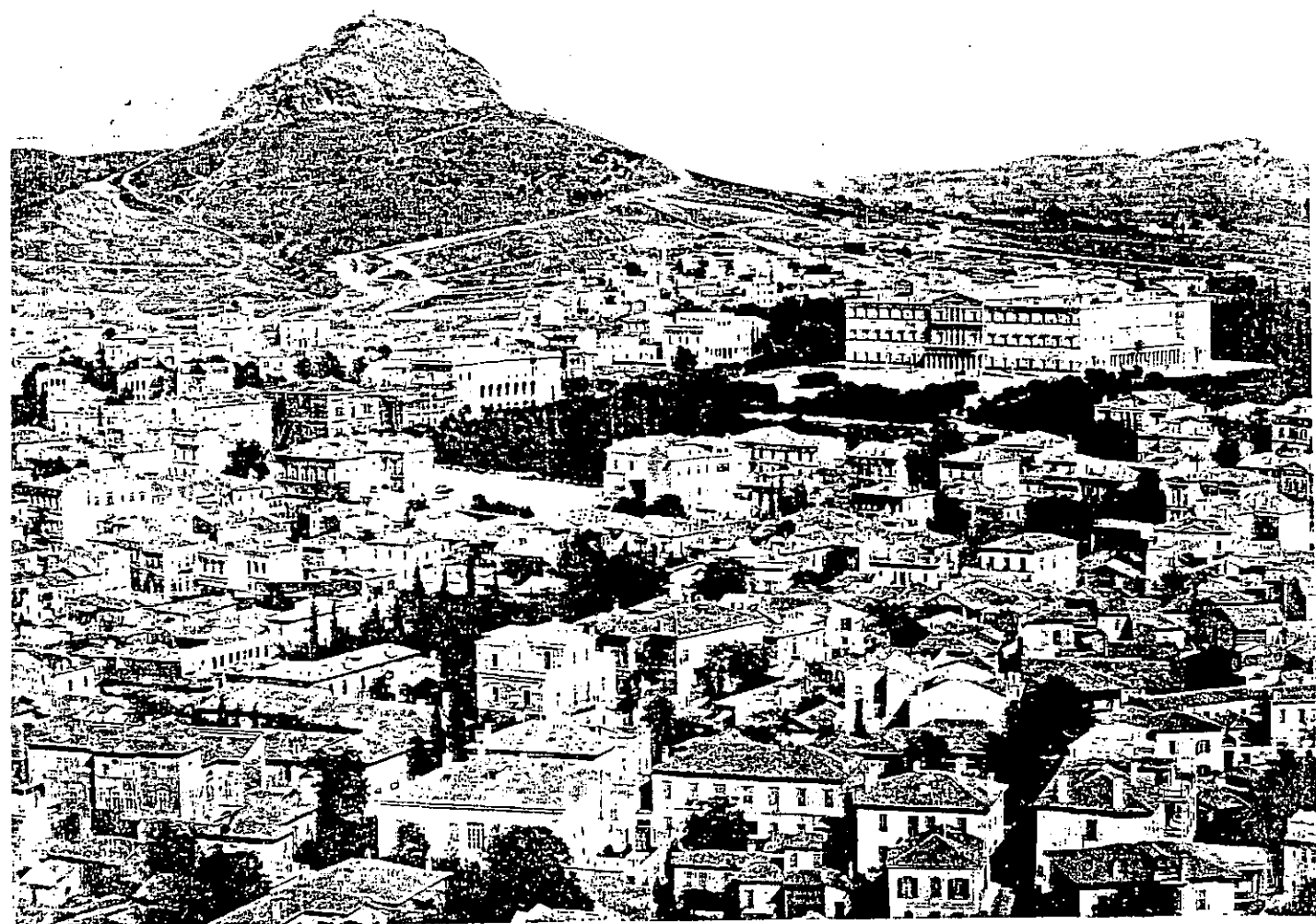
In 1882, a decisive step in Public transportation, was the construction of a network of horse drawn trams. The only steam powered tramway connected Panepistimiou avenue with Neo Faliro, and this fact helped the urbanization of the areas along these lines.

An important event in 1869, was the inauguration of the train operation connecting Athens (Thissio) and Pireaus. The line later was extended to Monastiraki square, the commercial life of which, was enforced by this fact.

In 1890, Athinas street had been excavated for the construction of the underground railway line extension, from Monastiraki square to Lycourgou street, where the terminal station was.



36. Map of Athens in 1876 (source: Biris 1996)



37. Athens in 1873 (source: Biris 1996)

2.3. The Modernization of the State (1880-1909)

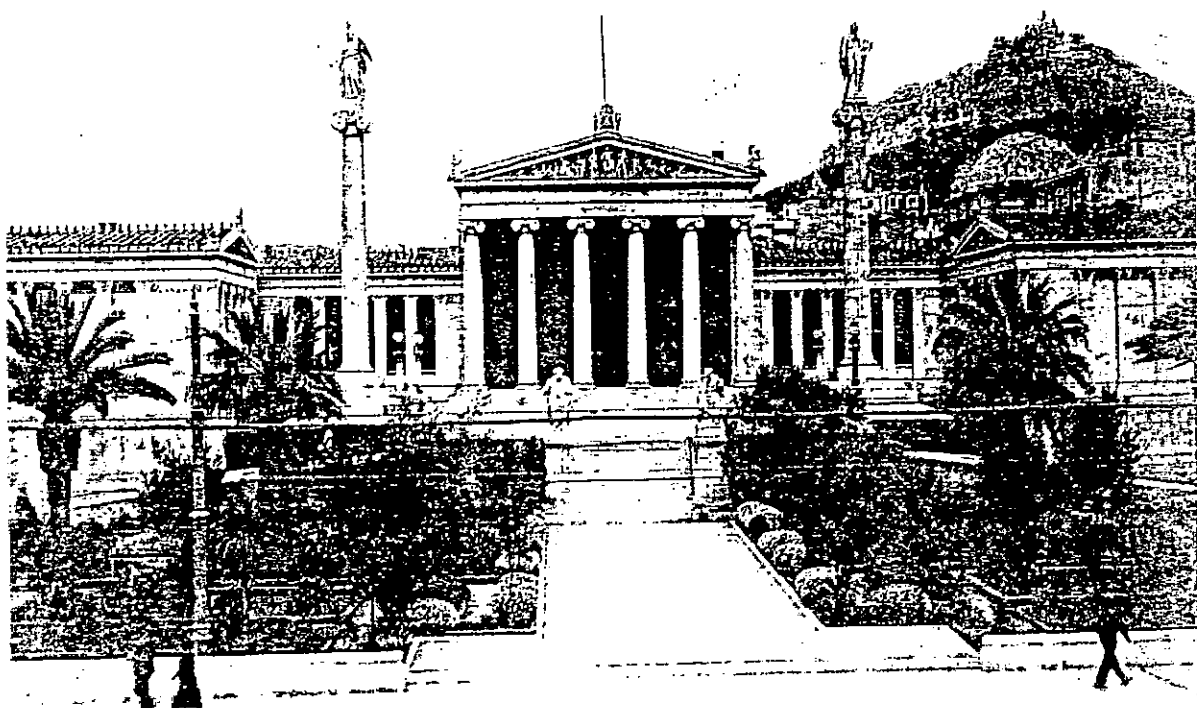
During this period the country depended on international capitalism and the agrarian problem had become complicated. Moreover, the period was characterized by the awakening of the lower middle class, mainly through the commercialization of production.

The government under Al. Koumoundouros and mainly under Ch. Trikoupis who favoured the upper middle class, attempted to organize the state, to establish the parliamentary system, to update the army and navy, to make large infrastructure works such as the construction of the Corinth Canal, and the railways. All these works helped the country's economic evolution and industrial development. The transition from the commercial and retail phase to industrial structures, passed through successive stages from 1880 to 1922. The use of steam engines was critical for the increase of industrial activity. However, the economic crises that prevailed, delayed developments.

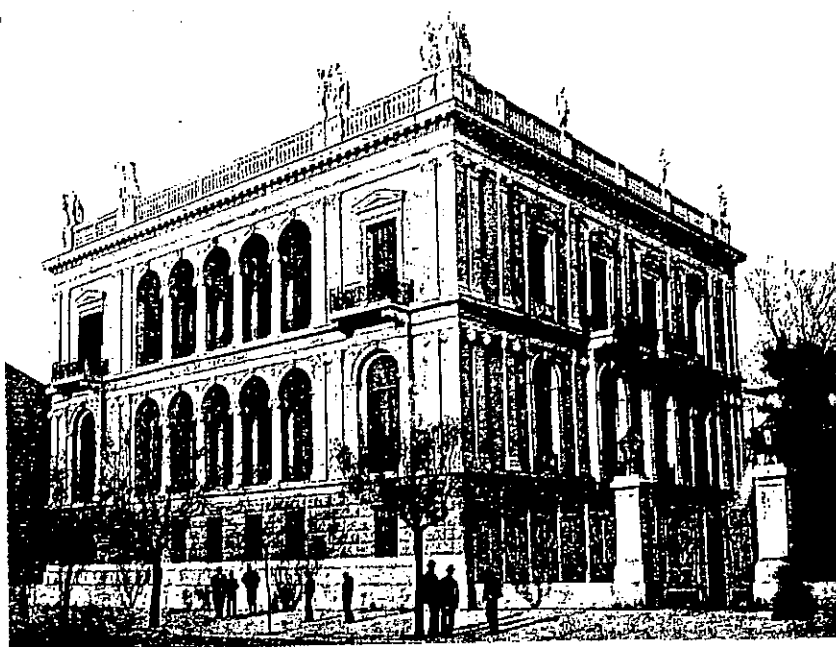
The working class residential areas, created in this period near the industries, in Athens and Piraeus were indicative to this fact (Gazi, Thissio, Metaxourgio, Kaminia). Besides, because of the political crisis in Turkey, Greek capitalists transferred their capitals from Turkey and invested them in Greek banks and industries, (Svoronos, 1976). The economic development had been accelerated, with the foundation of many new companies. At the end of the 19th Century, the majority of the urban functions were concentrated in Athens and Piraeus, forming the main pole of urban attraction. In the same period, 30% of country's residents left their villages and many of them emigrated to the United States.

The infiltration of foreign capital resulted in the economic evolution of the entire country which overpassed the commercial stage and interacted with the European capitalist system. Furthermore, whilst the bourgeoisie class was strengthened, the size of the lower middle class was rising (Svoronos, 1976). The significant increase the public expense, due to the augmentation of public works, financed with loans without reorganization of the taxes, led to the failure of economic policy, which reached bankruptcy in 1893 (Tsoukalas, 1968).

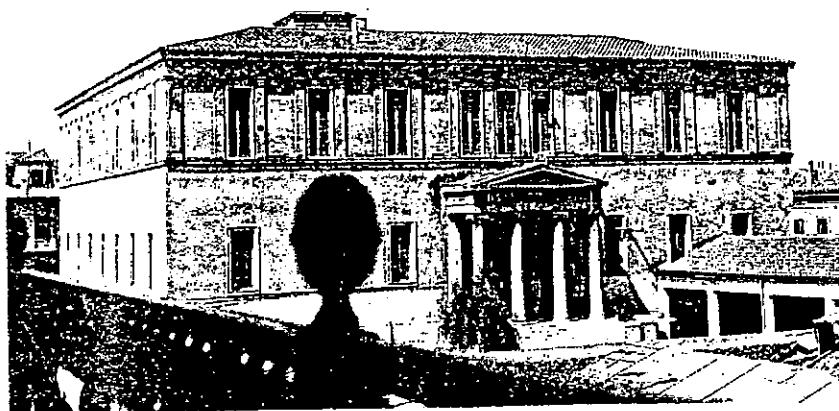
However, the end of the 19th century was indeed a turning point as the contemporary economy was founded and the enterprising bourgeoisie entered the political scenes (Burgel, 1976).



38. The Academy (Th. Hansen, 1859, source: author's collection)



39. Schliemann's house (E. Ziller, 1879, source: author's collection)



40. Varvakion School (P. Kalkos, 1859, source: Biris 1996)

New ideological orientations also characterized this period. Among others, the movement of language demoticism, which became the central problem of intellectual life, created lengthy ideological conflicts. Realism and naturalism also appeared in Literature. In Foreign Policy, the main objective concerned the annexation of Epirus, Macedonia, Thessaly and Crete. The acquisition of Thessaly has been a success, but, by the defeat in a brief war with Turkey in 1897, the "Great Idea" was seriously harmed. After a sequence of governmental formations, social displeasure led to the military revolution of 1909. This coup marked the end of an era, and was converted into a renewing popular movement, that strengthened the power of the middle classes (Burgel, 1976).

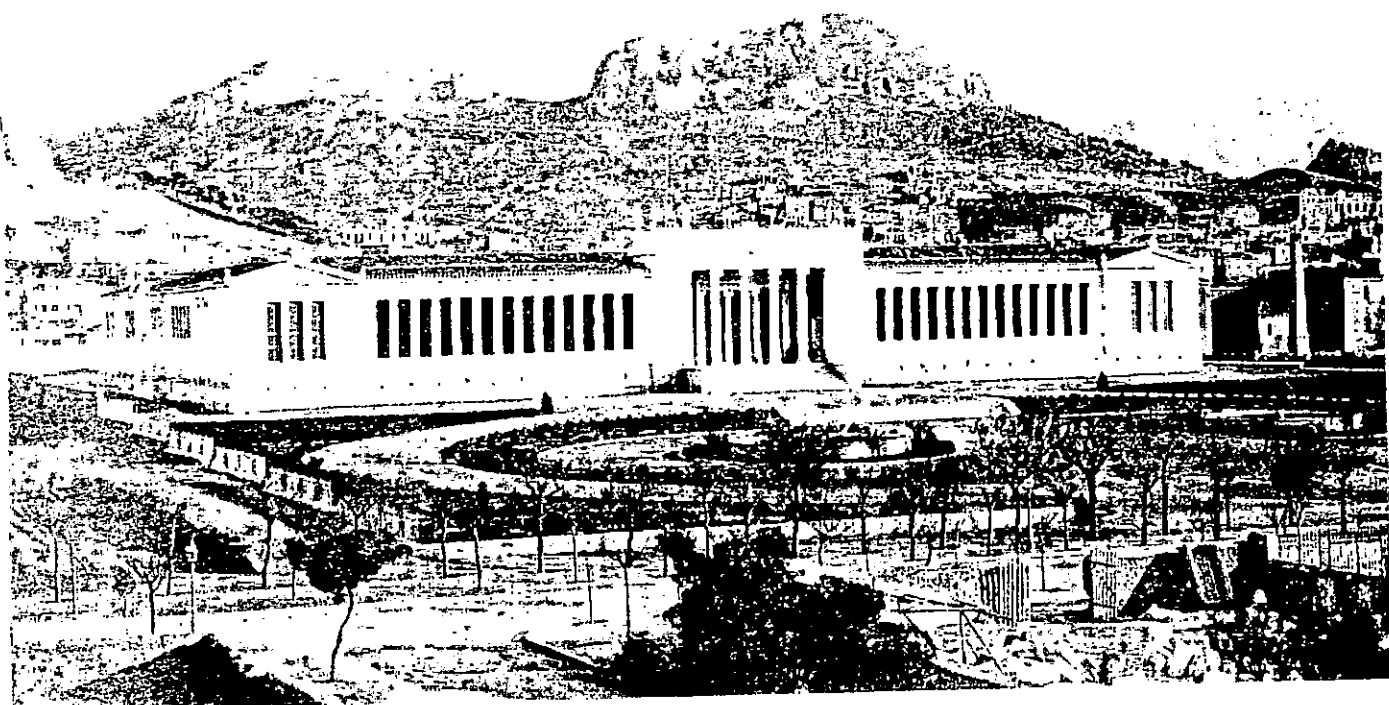
The general spirit of the era favoured the idea of glorification of anything Greek, from art to the landscape and popular tradition.

The turn towards the people, was a kind of resistance to classicism, a nation-centered protestation against the Europeanization of Greece. Positivism and scientism were main characteristics of this period.

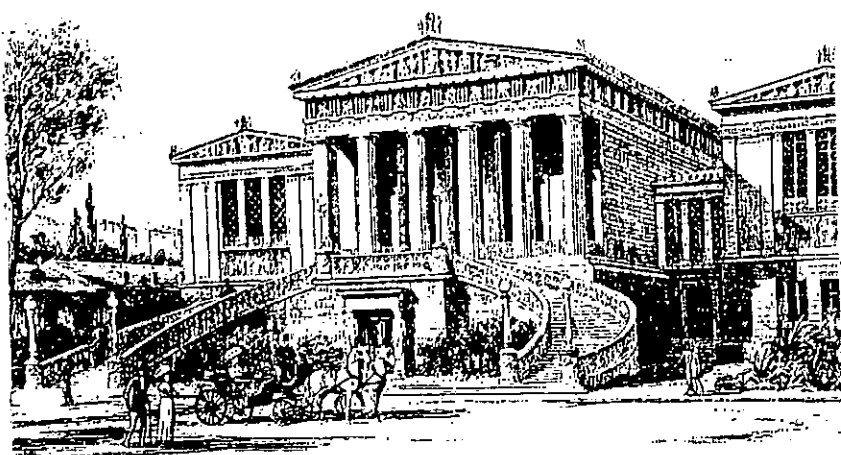
At the end of the period, Athens had about 130.000 inhabitants and continued to increase by adding new areas to the City Plan which extended to 14.000.000m².

New buildings, were erected, mostly one or two storey houses, built in the eastern and northern area of the city. Greek capitalists from abroad, Phanariotes, bankers, military, intellectuals and politicians were building luxurious houses on Stadiou, Panepistimiou, Vassilissis Sofias streets and holiday houses in Kifissia, Faliro and Patissia. (Biris 1987).

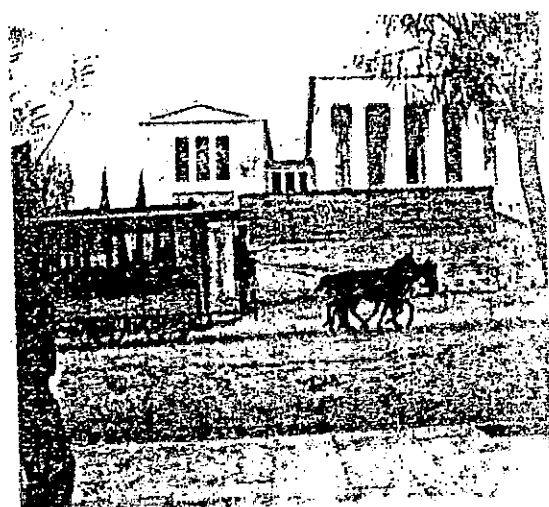
In 1879, the district of Terpsithea was added to the city plan, in 1884, Kallithea area and in 1907, the area of Kato Petralona were added. The street layout of these new districts, were usually proposed by the land owners and approved by the Services of Public Works. This procedure did not ensure the adequacy of Public spaces, such as streets and squares, as well as green areas of these new districts and for the entire city. During this period, Athens as a city of the bourgeois class, completed its neoclassical image. However, some eclectic trends of German, English and French influences also appeared. At the same time, the Historicism in Architecture dominated Europe, connecting Renaissance with Classical style. In Greece, this trend was represented by E. Ziller. In any case, Athens did not resemble any more to an eastern town, even in its poorest districts. It was a newly built European city, with a pleasant architectural character and scale and balanced relationships with the natural landscape. Kifissias



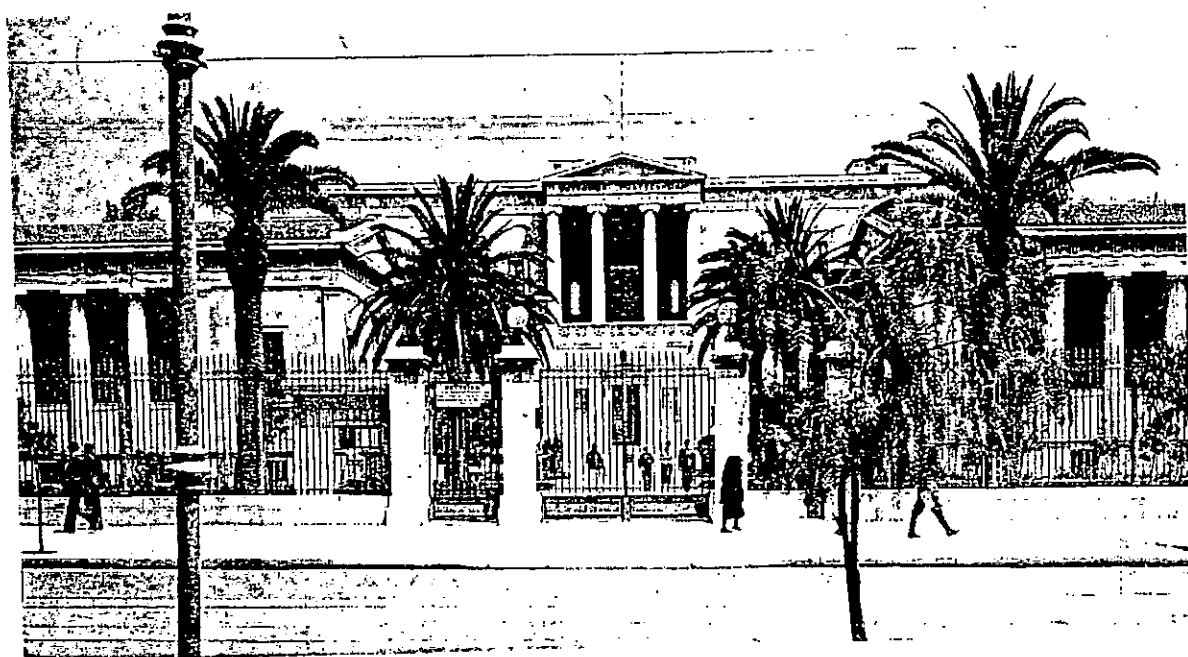
41. Archaeological Museum (P. Kalkos, 1866, source: Biris 1996)



42. National Library (Th. Hansen, 1884, source: Biris 1996)



43. The horse-powered tram in front of the Library building



44. The Technical University (I. Kafatzoglou, 1870, source: author's collection)

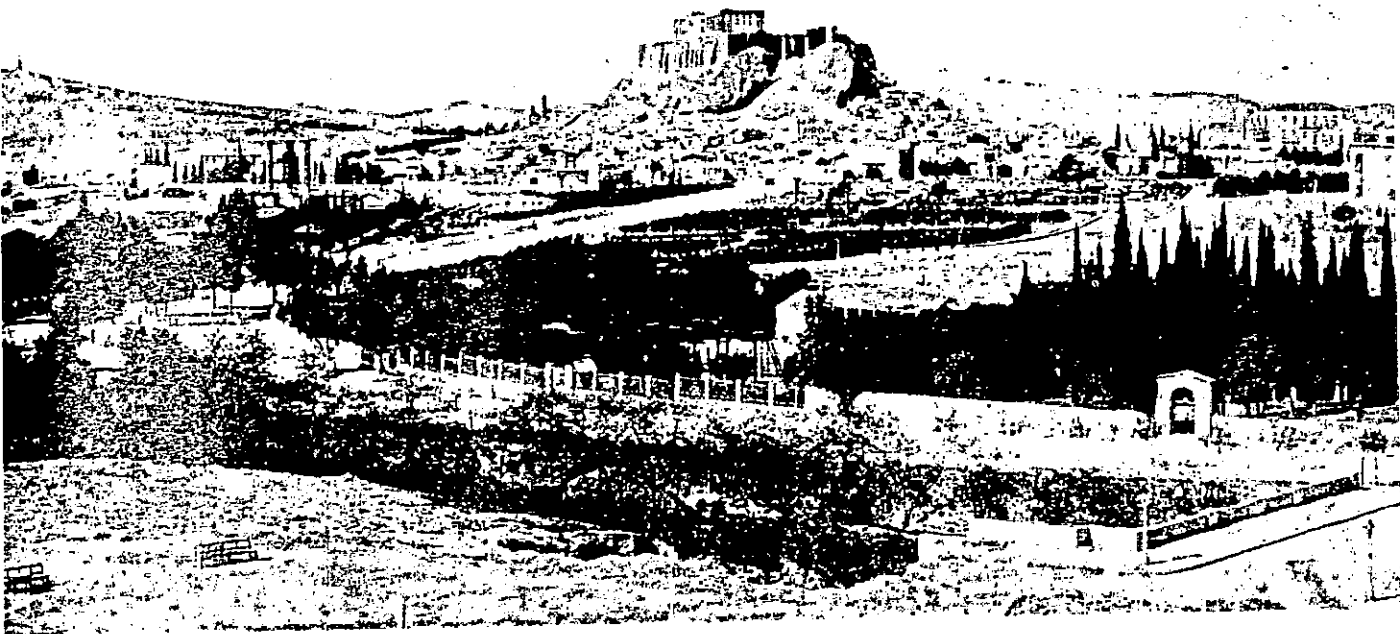
avenue (later Vassilisis Sofias) had been gradually incorporated into the City Plan from 1857 to 1892. Its significance to the city increased, as the best upper class' mansions were being built here, providing a character of wealth, as well as a number of hospitals such as Evangelismos (1881), Ippokratio (1885) and Eginition (1901). In 1900, the first bourgeois apartment building had been constructed on this road (E. Ziller). In the same area, the house of Duchess Marbois was built (S. Kleantis 1848), and the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School was established in 1841.

In the 1880's a number of splendid Public Buildings were constructed, such as the Archaeological Museum, the Municipal Theater, Melas' house, the German Archaeological Institute, the National Library and Zappion had also been completed, as well as big neoclassical hotels in Omonia Square (Philippidis, 1984), (two of them built by E. Ziller). In 1896, the first Olympic Games were conducted in the newly reconstructed, ancient marble Stadium. The Open Spaces in front of these significant buildings composed some of the most important Public Spaces of the city. For example, in front of Zappion there was a large open space, which was favoured by the Athenians, who used to gather there, on the occasion of holidays or festivities. There was also a "French garden", designed by F. Boulanger, different in style to the Royal Garden, that was designed as an "English garden". The railway to Lavrion began operations, connecting the center of Athens with the eastern regions of Attica.

In 1900, Monastiraki square became a tramway junction combining also the train station for the Piraeus route.

Tramway lines were also built on Omonia square, connecting the center with the surrounding districts, while the square itself was covered in asphalt in 1906.

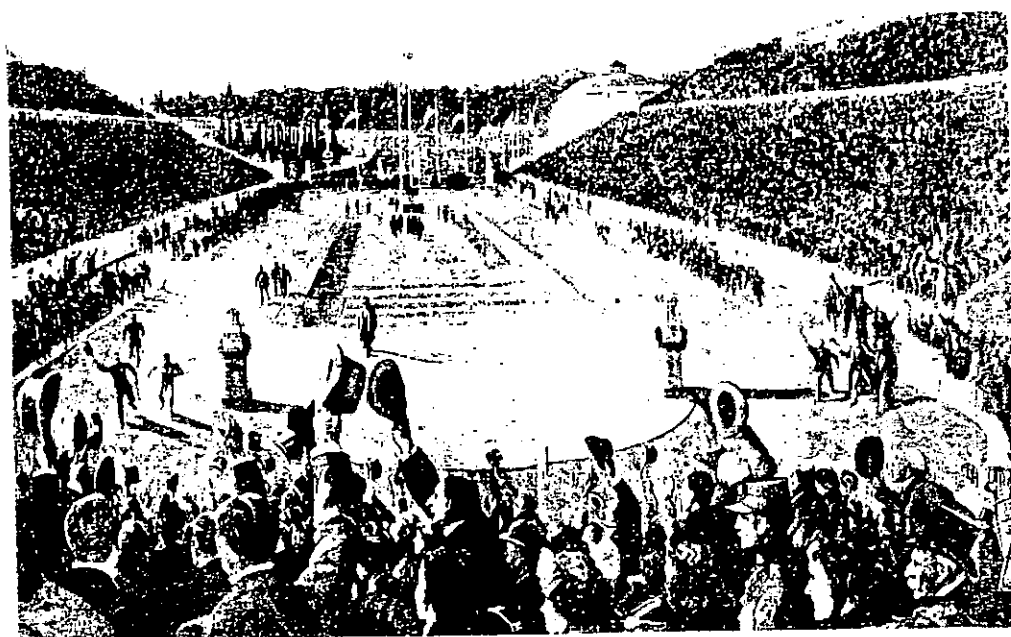
1889 was the year of the first, limited, electric lighting of Omonia and Syntagma squares, on the occasion of the marriage of the Crown Prince Constantine. A little later, in 1894, the railway from Athens to Piraeus was electrically powered, generated by the new electric plant in Neo Faliro. This railway connection helped the evolution of Neo Faliro, as a recreational center, with hotels, swimming installations, theaters etc. In Athens, the tramways were also electrically powered and consisted of 16 lines. The central area of Athens, between the Royal Palace, the Stadium and the University and the main streets and squares of Athens, were electrically lit in 1902, but the smaller streets were still lit with gas. In this period, other important buildings completed, were the Royal (later National) Theater (E. Ziller 1901), and the National Library (Th. Hansen, E. Ziller 1902).



45. View of Ilissos' Green Spaces towards the Acropolis. The small bridge is in front of the Stadium (source: Biris 1996)



46. The Stadium before its reconstruction, with Ilissos' bridge's ruins (Stademmann 1860, source: Biris 1996)



47. The Stadium during the first Olympic Games, in 1896 (source: Biris 1996)

In 1907, Athens had a population of 167.479 inhabitants.

Until 1910, all governmental interventions on Town Planning, mostly concerned the expansion of the City Plan, and occasional minor modifications, although the population had increased by twelve times. (Biris, 1997).

Two new Town Plans had been elaborated, one by L. Hoffmann in 1908 and the other by Th. Mawson in 1918.

These new Town Plans have been presented, but they were of no interest to the government, as they did little to add to the provision of a broader spirit to Athens city, or to the rational organization of urban affairs. Th. Mawson proposed an extensive Green zone which would be created by the unification of Open and Archeological Spaces, *“a large park and a system of athletic spaces which provide splendour to metropolis and are adequate to its requirements”*.

In this period, E. Ziller made his proposal for the Landscape formation of Lycabettus Hill, as a large Public Park with kiosks, steppy paths, open areas for panorama views and discreet architectural elements.

The railway line Piraeus – Athens – Peloponese and that of Piraeus – Athens – Larissa built on the western part of the city, intensified industries' concentration, shaping the industrial area which extended from the two railway stations up to Piraeus' Port, while working residences subsequently developed near the industries.

New residential areas were also under construction, e.g. Neapolis, (New Town) in order to absorb the constant internal immigration flow, that consisted mostly of the middle class. However, the lack of substructure works was still hopeless.

Other middle class residential areas were those of Pagrati and Patission.

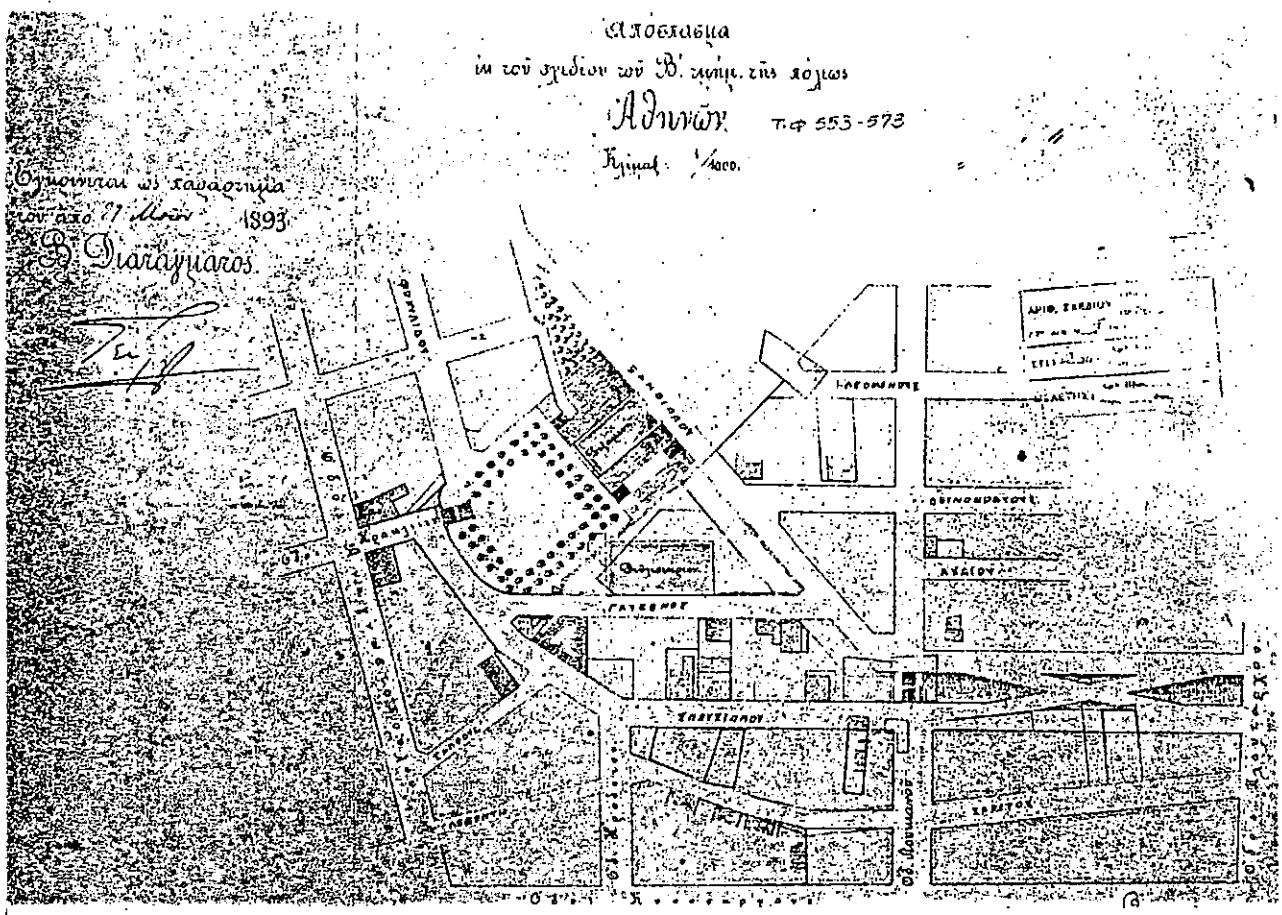
The strengthening of the bourgeoisie class, allowed it to interact with western cultural and intellectual tradition.

During this period, there was significant theatrical activity, with the opening of 18 theaters. The cinema also appeared shortly afterwards (Markezinis, 1966).

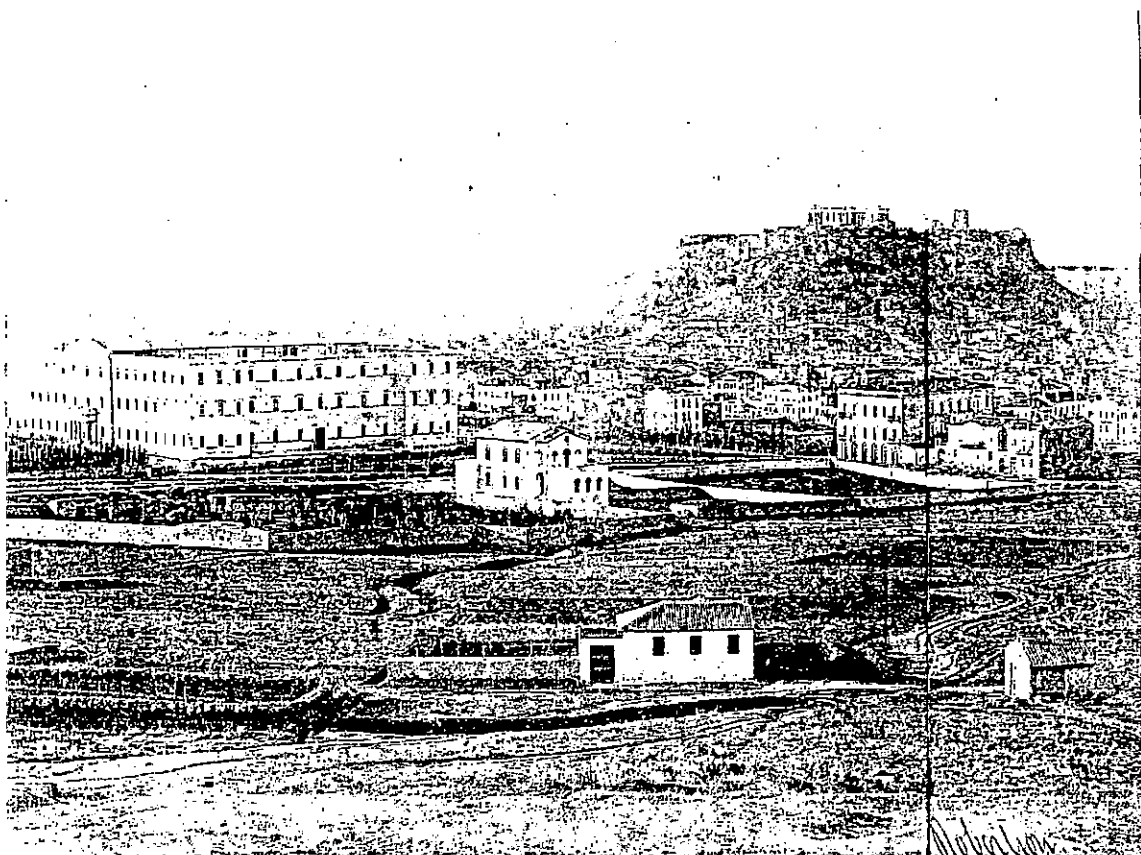
The upper classes were settled in the areas around the Palace, on Vassilissis Sofias, Stadiou, Panepistimiou streets and in Kolonaki district.

The common characteristic of all Public Spaces were the intense social life, open air theatrical and musical performances, social interaction and political debates etc.

The Open Space in front of the University had a very vivid activity, due to students who organized poetry competitions and mostly political meetings.



48. Plan of the restored Adrian's Water Reservoir and the adjacent Open Public Space
 (1893) (source: Ministry of Culture, 1985)



49. View of the Royal Place and the Acropolis from Kolonaki area, in 1860 (source:
 private collection)

In 1906, a Committee under the guidance of Crown Prince Constantine, undertook the study of all works under construction. Unfortunately, the only result was the proposal for embellishment works in the area surrounding the Acropolis.

In Public Spaces, the presence of new churches was important. This fact caused architects to face the problem of the coexistence of the classic and Byzantine style.

The progress in the field of electricity production, was assisted by the foundation of a new plant in Faliro, which supplied the increased needs of the city. In 1904, it supported the conversion of the steam powered Athens – Piraeus railway into electrically powered. In the decade of 1900-1910, the underground line connecting Omonia and Monastiraki had been constructed, causing the people doubts of its security.

In 1908, another railway connection was constructed between Omonia and the two Railway Stations.

The city's center was then covered with asphalt and had acquired electric trams. Since 1908, there was a limited telephone network, and also water and sewage networks. Sculptures had been placed in various areas of the city.

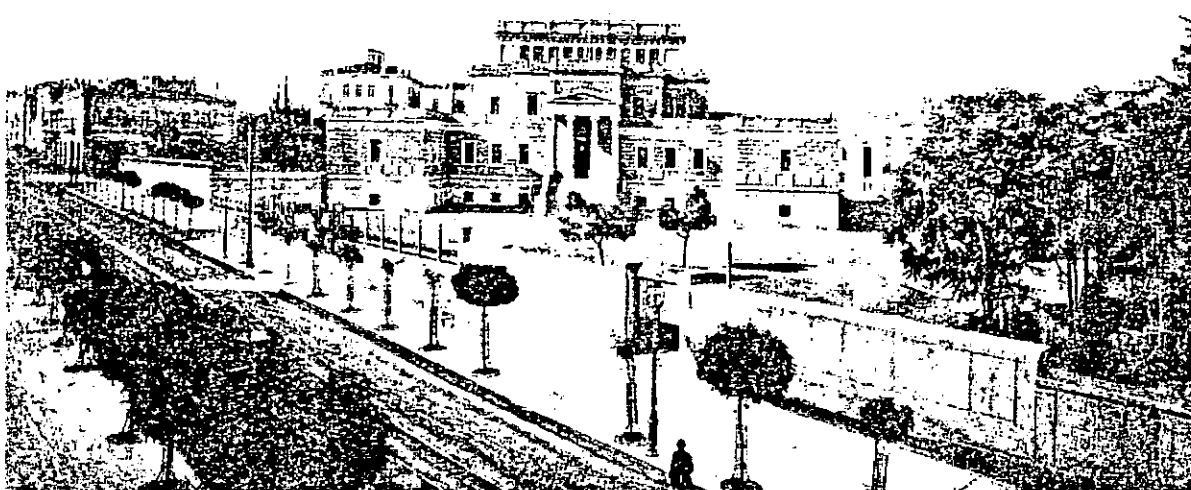
The water was canalized from Marathon lake to a Water Reservoir at the foot of Lycabettus hill. The neighbouring coppice (Dexameni), next to the Water Reservoir became a meeting point of intellectuals and an important place of Athenians' social life.

The new electricity plant provided enough electricity to supply the development of the social and artistic life of Athens. The amusement areas in Neo Faliro, Omonia and Syntagma squares, Panepistimiou, Amalias and Piraeus streets, had in this period plenty of lighting, which permitted the extension of night life in Public areas.

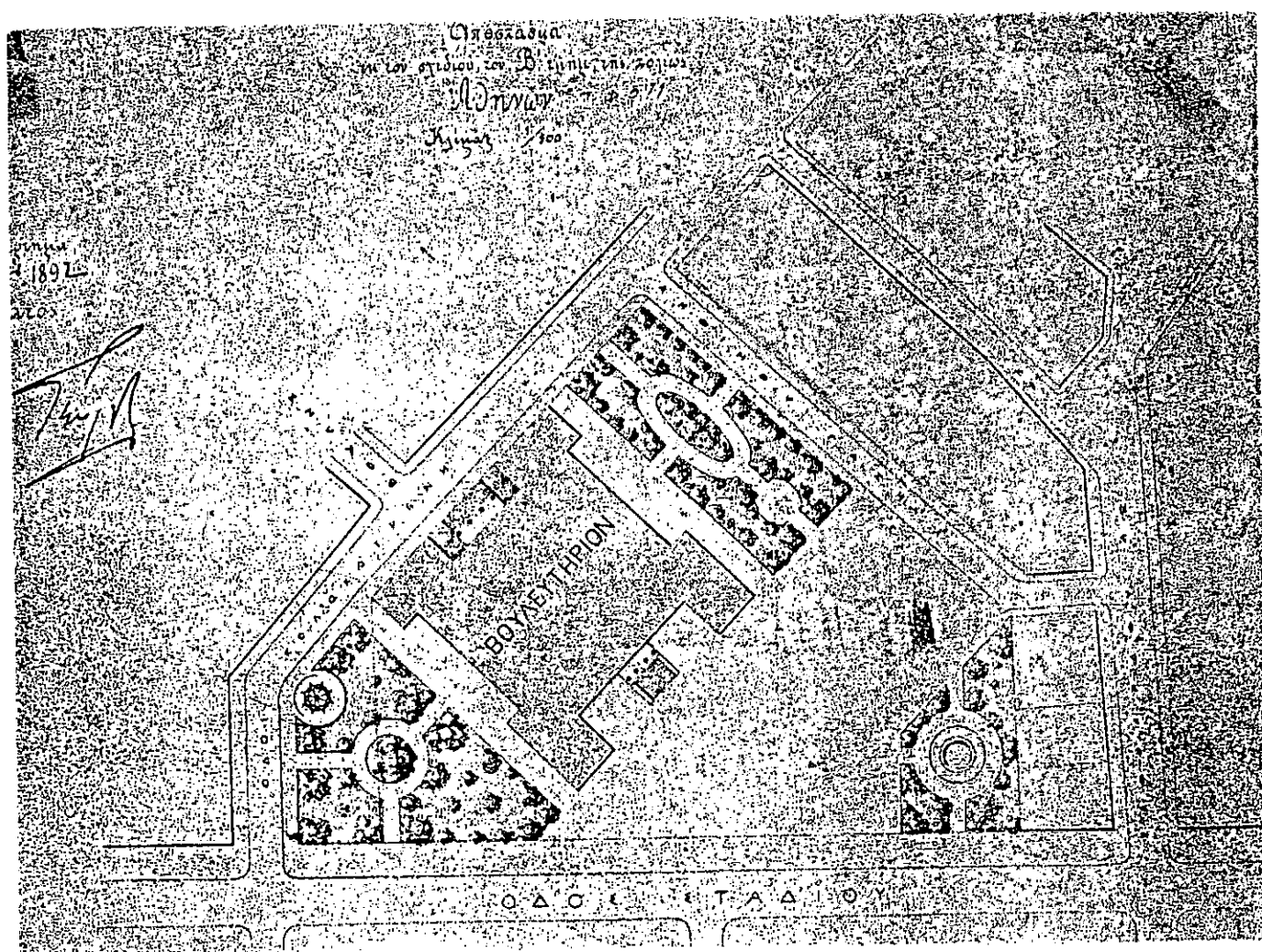
With the neoclassical buildings, the asphalt laid streets and the greenery, the city gained an atmosphere of splendour.

In 1898, the foundation of the "Friends of the Forest" Company, was the beginning of the efforts for the reforestation of the Athenian Landscape. In ten years, around 300.000 trees, mostly pines, were planted. In this way, the hills of Lycabettus, Philopappou, Stefi, Ardittos, the slopes of the Acropolis and the Pagrati grove became green areas.

Other natural areas, such as the area near the Military School, the area between Faliro and Syngrou avenue, etc. were also planted. At the same time, the expansion of the city was causing a gradual decrease of the natural Landscape areas.



50. The Parliament building (P. Kalkos, 1890, source: Biris 1996)



51. The Parliament building and the adjacent Open Public Space (source: Ministry of Culture, 1985)

In this period, on the occasion of the 1896 Olympic games, the whole area around Zappion and Ardittos Hill, adjacent to the Stadium, along Ilissos river and up to the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the Archaeological Landscape between the Temple of Hephaestus and the hill of Aeropagus, were also planted.

Open Public Spaces and mainly the squares, had a diverse character according to the social classes which used to gather in each one (Scaltsa, 1983).

Omonia square had become an important transportation junction and concentrated adherents of various political parties. It was also an entertainment center, containing theaters, cafés and neoclassical Hotels, but still maintained a local character. Syntagma square was not merely a political center, with many historical and political events and arguments taking place there, but also a social one. Apart from the military band concerts, the first open air cinemas had also been installed there, their operation connected with popular cafés. In 1903, three coffee shops in this square offered open air cinema projections to their clients.

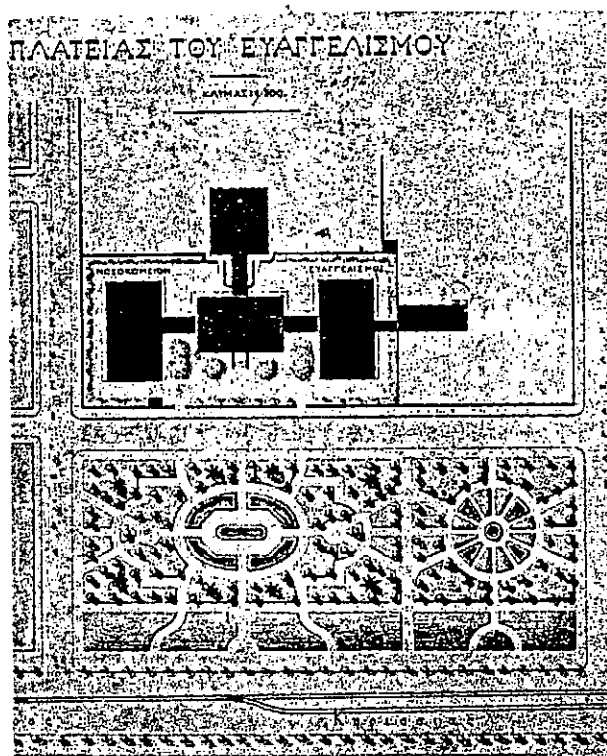
Constitution (Syntagma) square and the broader area of Zappion, with relevant functions (walks, contacts, information, political conversations etc) had a more European and an upper class character, as they were close to the Royal Palace and Garden, with luxurious hotels and shops in Ermou and Stadiou streets. Amalias avenue was planted with pepper trees and was the most favoured street of the middle class. During this period, all the commercial and social life of Athens was evolving in the triangle of Stadiou, Ermou and Eolou street.

On the other hand, contrary to this, in the ruins of the temple of Olympian Zeus, lower classes used to gather for Shrove Monday, while Municipal Theater square, Independence square (Metaxourgiou), Heroes' square (Psiri) and Lavriou square, had also a popular character.

During this period, mostly open – air theatrical performances, were also becoming more popular in the areas of Faliron, Ilissos river area, Zappion, Omonia and Syntagma, and in many other squares and places of the city center or districts (Scaltsa, 1983).

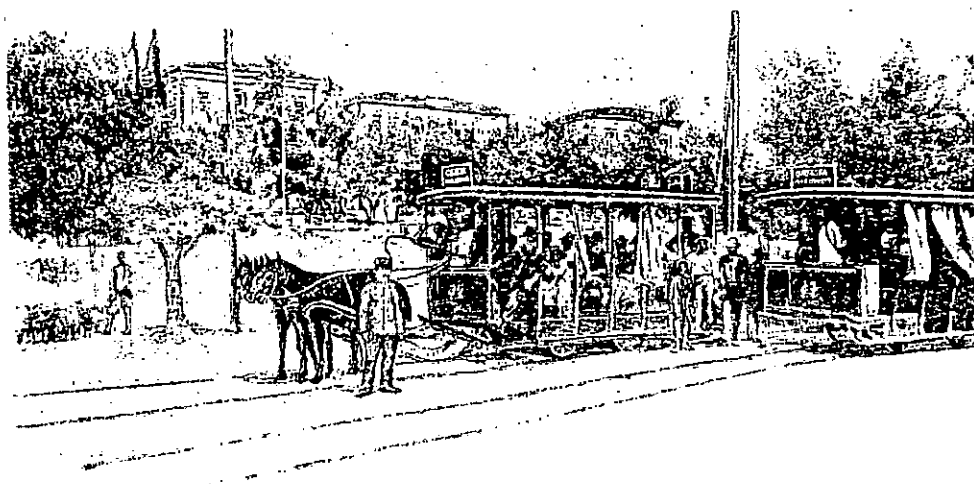


52. Evangelismos Hospital and its Garden (A. Theophilas, 1881, source: Biris 1996)



53. The Garden in front of Evangelismos Hospital (1890)

(source: Ministry of Culture, 1985)



54. The horse – drawn tram in front of Evangelismos Hospital (1890) (source: Biris 1996)

2.4. Greece as a Balkan Power (1910 - 1914)

The long period of socio-economic stagnation came to an end during the first decades of the 20th century. The evolution in economics was analogous to the evolution of Society. The Athenian society was now more homogeneous, with progressive and modernizational tendencies.

The consequences of the evolution of the new production forces, were revealed in the military revolt of 1909, which was transformed into a strong popular movement of change. The “1909” evolution heralded the bourgeois’ evolution which would follow. Its legislative expression was the revision of the Constitution in 1911.

The arrival of El. Venizelos opened up a new period in Greek History. As a representative of the bourgeois class, he attempted to raise the country on the basis of contemporary capitalism, the organization of a contemporary State in several fields, the reformation of Public Services, Justice, Education and the Economy and by creating a social reform on behalf of the peasants and workers. The Army and Navy were also reorganized (Svoronos, 1976). Following the two Balkan Wars (1912-13), which could be considered as the introduction to the 1st World War, Greece annexed many regions as Epirus, Macedonia, Aegean Islands, and Crete.

The spirit of the times represented the belief in life and the magnificent destiny of the nation, while the “Great Idea” was also spreading.

The exaltation of the “Great idealism” acted as a unifying element for the Greeks, whilst Romantic Classicism turned into Eastern Exoticism.

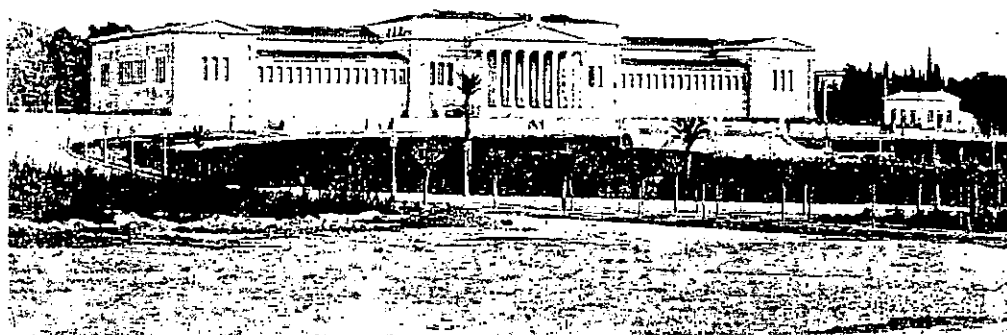
However, there were differences on a political level. The Royal Party was influenced by the German Royal Court, while the Liberals were inclined towards Greek – centered Idealism (Philippidis, 1984).

The reorganization of Public Services evolved with the protection of public employees, whilst the working and agrarian classes started to affect social and political life putting forward the foundations of syndicalism.

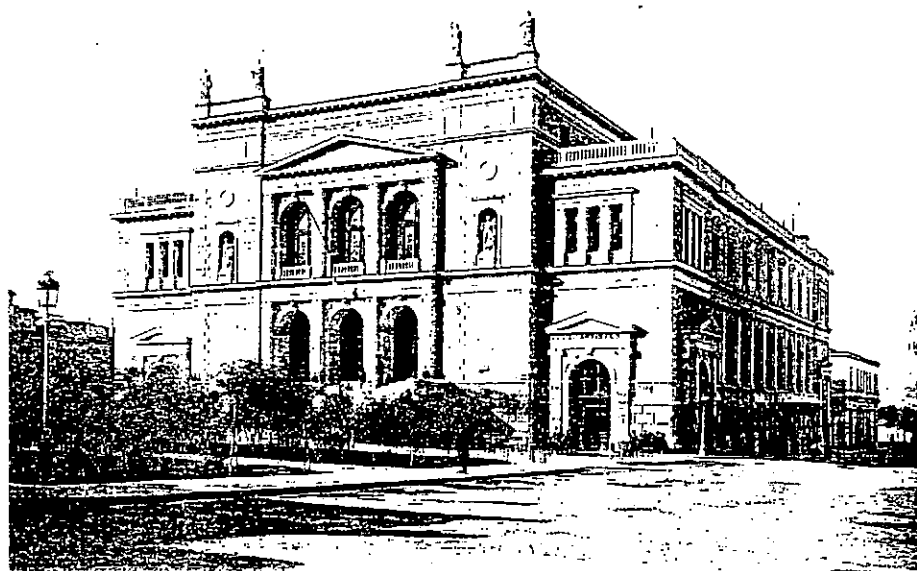
Political affairs and mainly the murder of King George Ist and his replacement by his son Constantine, divided the people into Royalists and Venizelists, up to a National Division.

The expansion of the city continued, with the constructions of new residential areas.

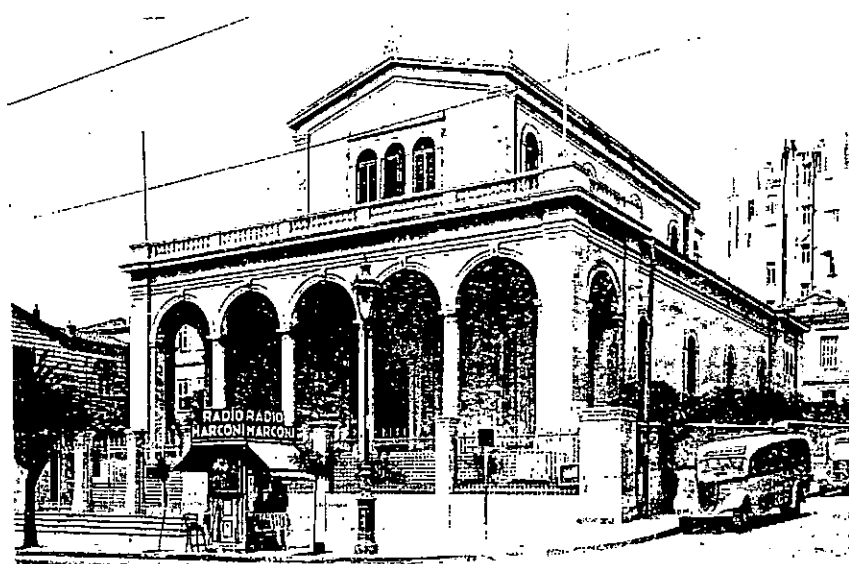
Until to 1910, all governmental interventions in Town Planning concerned the expansions of the City Plan, or occasional and minor modifications.



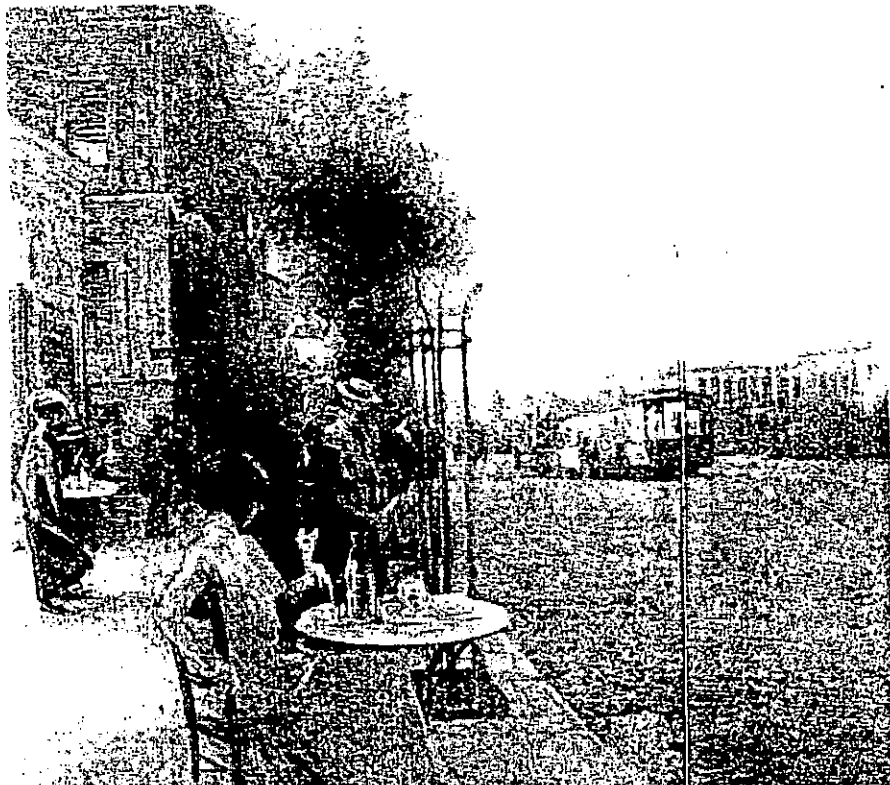
55. Zappion after its completion (F. Boulanger, Th. Hansen, 1888, source: Biris 1996)



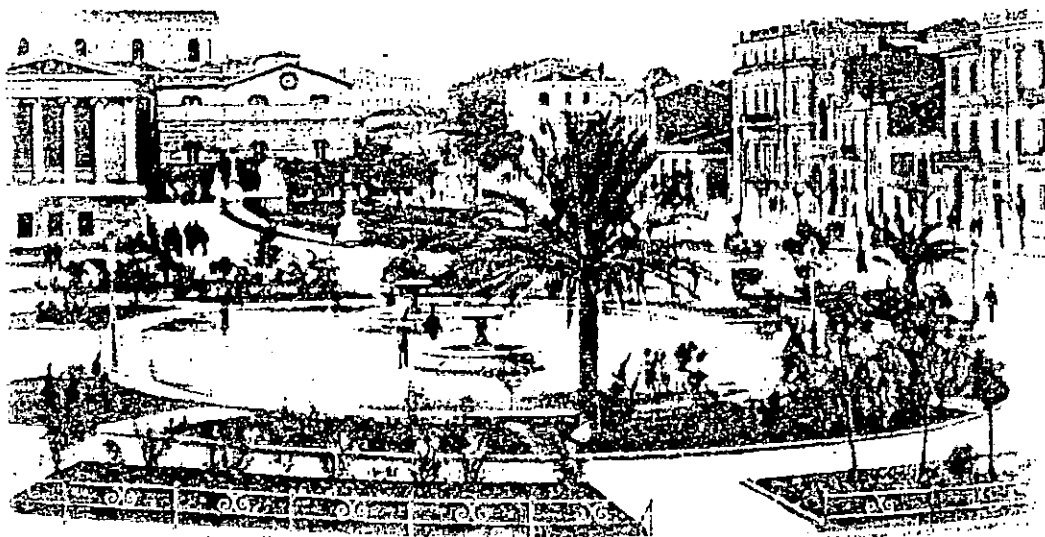
56. The Municipal Theater (E. Ziller, 1888, author's collection)



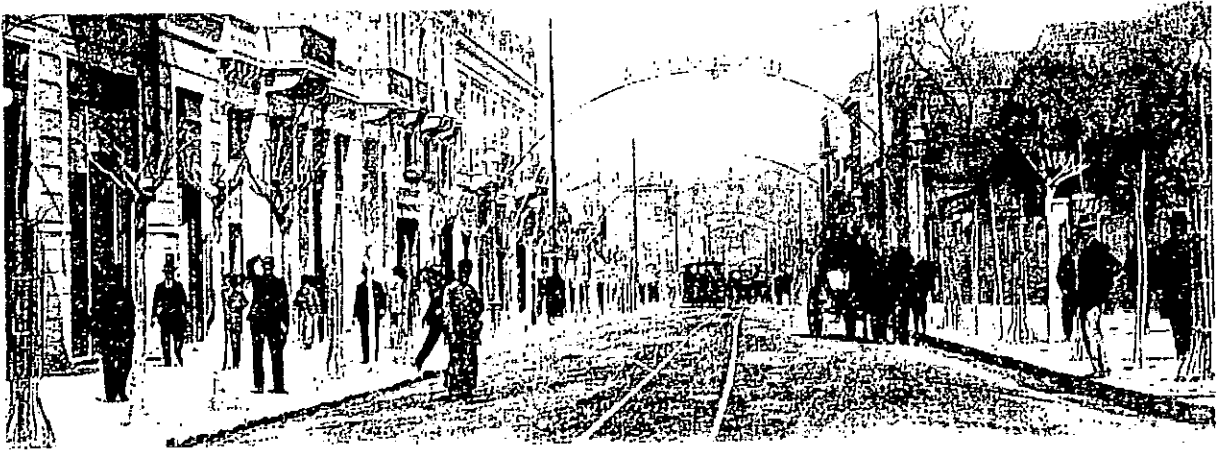
57. The Catholic Cathedral (L. Klenze, I. Kaftatzoglou, 1887, source: Biris 1996)



58. Panepistimiou street in the University area (P. Mathiopoulos, 1899, E. Koutlidis Foundation's Collection)



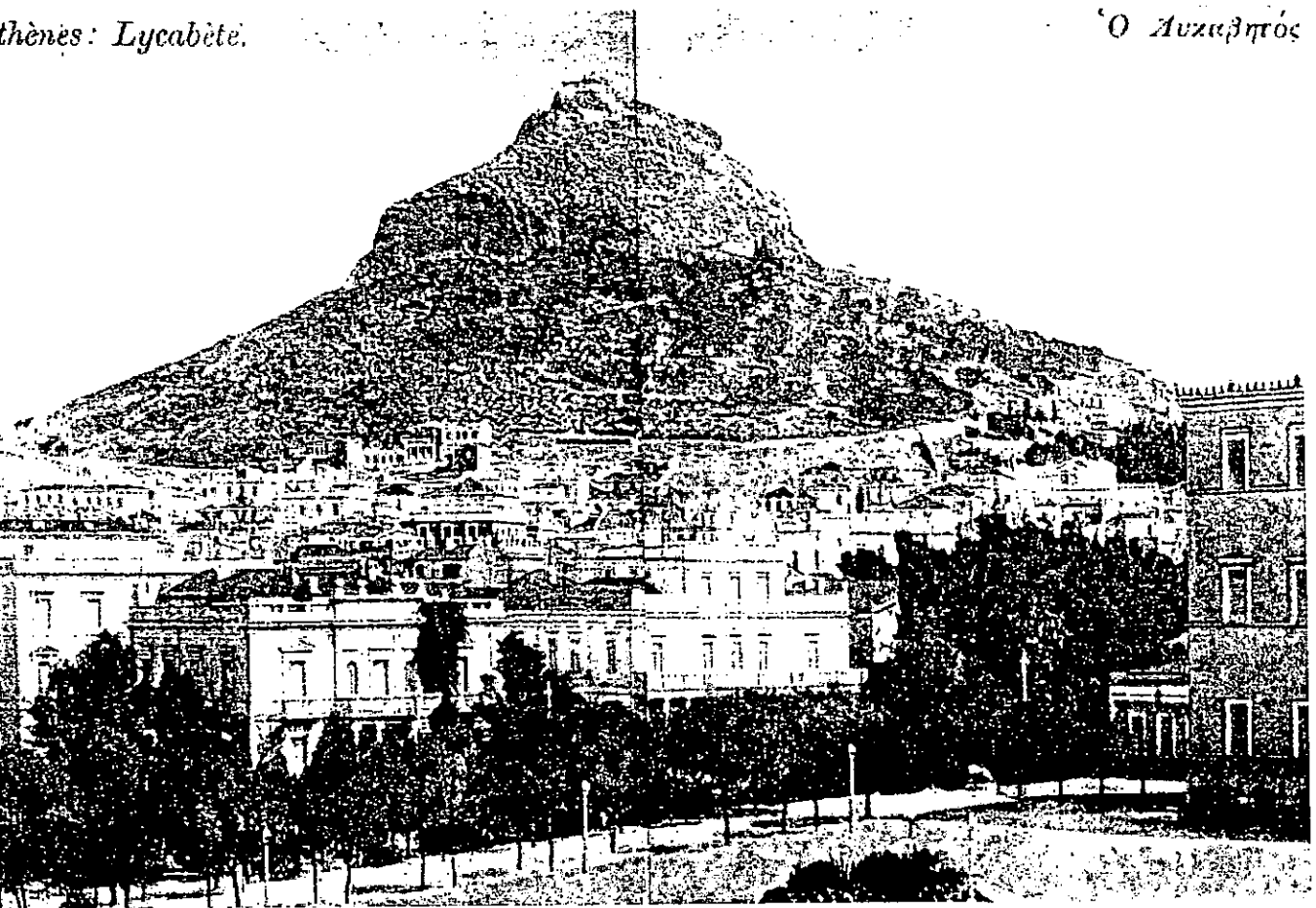
59. Part of the Open Space in front of the University, in 1903 (source: Biris 1996)



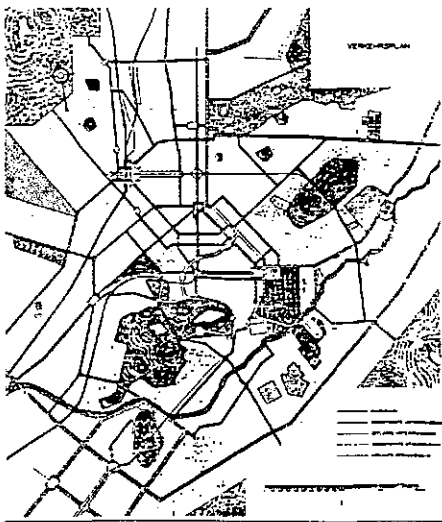
60. Stadiou street in 1903 (source: Biris 1996)



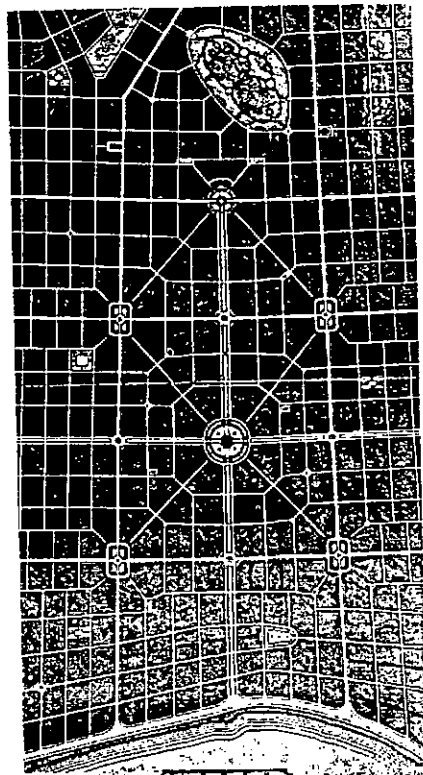
61. Louis' Square in 1900 with national Bank (left), Melas' house (center) and the Municipal Theater (right) (source: private collection)



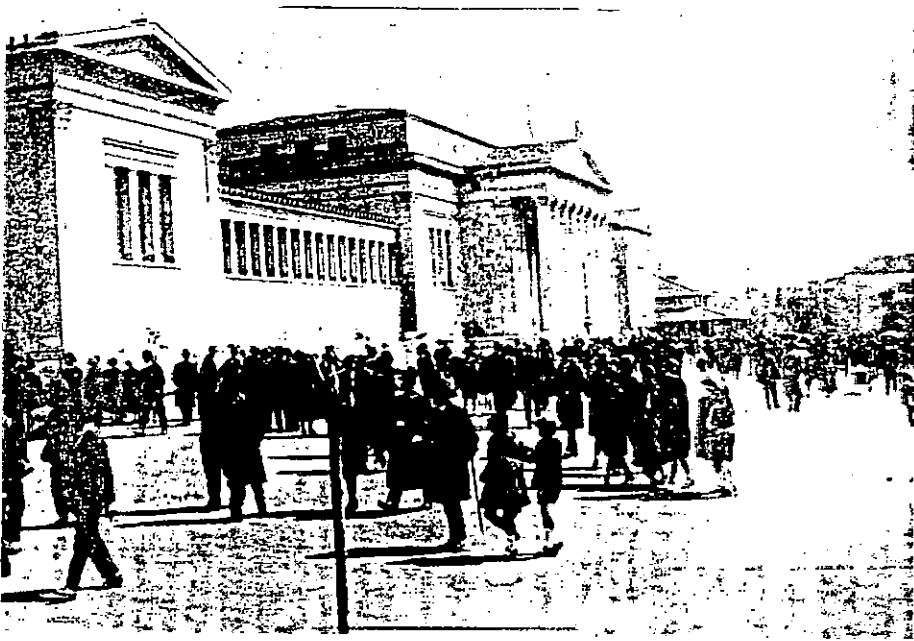
62. The first part of Vassilissis Sophias street in 1990 (source: private collection)



63. Proposal for Athens Town Plan
(L. Hoffmann, 1910, source: Design and Art in Greece, 1987)



64. Proposal of a new city area, between Philopappou and Faliron
(L. Hoffmann, 1910, source: Design and Art in Greece, 1987)



65. Zappion's Open Public Space in 1914 (source: ERT 1992 – Poulidis archives)



66. Syntagma Square in 1915 (source: Biris 1996)

By the beginning of the World War I, Athens occupied the area of today's boundaries of the Municipality of Athens. With the exception of the greenery and trees planted in the main squares and main roads, there were no other additions of green areas to Athens.

In 1908, L. Hoffmann presented his proposals for the city. These included a neoclassic composition with pompous avenues, axial squares with obelisks and extensions of the city towards Patissia and Kallithea (Sariyannis, 2000).

In 1914, the Ministry of Transport was established and undertook many responsibilities which were within the competence of the Ministry of Interior, such as the Service of Public Works that was transferred there. After a while, a Town Plan Service had been founded in the Municipality of Athens, but the study and organization of the city had been dissociated from the Municipality.

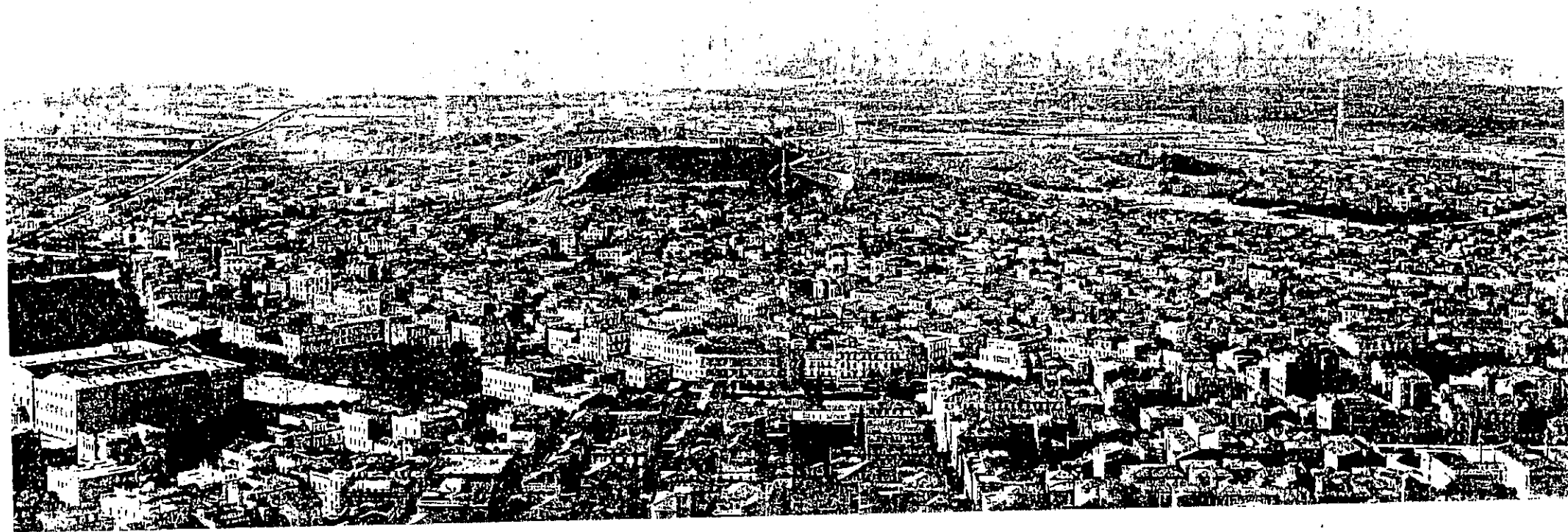
In 1914, a new Town Plan had been drawn up, by Th. Mawson, who had been invited by Queen Sophia. He submitted proposals for monumental axes according to the patterns of big European cities, but they proved unsuccessful, as they disregarded the fact that the city had already been built.

All the previous Town Plans, were more or less formalistic, with a decreased social aspect. Understandably, they all had a negative reception from the city's residents.

For the first time, this plan introduced the notion of "Zoning" (of Functions) by proposing the "Political center" with the Town Hall and Courts, the "Administration Center" around the new Parliament and the "University Center" with a large public garden in Mars Field.

In Architecture, a major influence since 1901 was that of academic Eclecticism of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, which lasted up to 1940. Its representative was A. Nicoloudis, while the Romantic Regionalist or "Populist" movement was expressed by A. Zachos. However, these movements did not help the values of the anonymous architecture to survive (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993).

Up to 1914, Classicism continued to be the favoured architecture of all social classes, but in this period, the new trends also were maintained such as Art Nouveau, Eclecticism, the Rustic style and new Baroque. (Biris 1987). The latter expressed the pro-German royalist Party, in contrast to the Greek – centered character of the Liberal middle class, which was expressed by the austere and plain Neoclassicism. (Biris 1987).



67. View of Athens from Lycabettus, towards the Acropolis in 1910 (source: Biris 1996)

2.5. Greece as a European State (1914-1924)

In this period Europe was divided into two enemy camps, Entente (England, France, Russia), and the Central Forces (Svoronos, 1976).

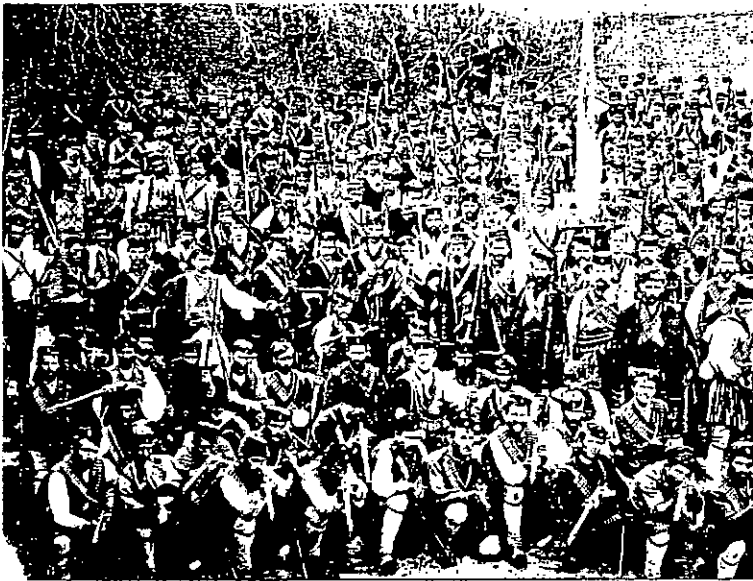
The unsettled period following the Balkan wars, affected Greece which reached an internal crisis. A number of factors led to acceleration of the economic development from 1915. The strengthening of the country's position which Venizelos attempted, was interrupted by the events of World War I. During the War, Greece went through a serious political crisis. The Central Powers were supported by the Royal Court and the established political world, while England, France and Russia, were supported by the Liberal Movement and Venizelos. The various events of the Balkans' region aggravated the relations between the two sides (Svoronos, 1976). The end of the World War I, announced the end of the bourgeois class era in Greece, as the European political -economic development required a centralized State.

After the War, the Sevres Treaty (1920) handed over Western and Eastern Thrace to Greece and also the area of Smyrna. This fact however, only prolonged the war between Greece and Turkey.

The expedition in 1919 to Ionia coast (Asia Minor), which started with Allies' instigation, ended, after many events, during which Greece was abandoned by the Entente, with the retreat and the Asia Minor Disaster" (1922). The Balkan Wars and World War I, resulted in the doubling of the territory and population of Greece (2.187.000 inhabitants in 1828, 6.204.000 in 1928) , also influencing the economy and social evolution (Svoronos, 1976). At that period Athens had 300.000 inhabitants. The fear of a social revolution obliged Venizelos' government to expropriate all large estates and distribute them to landless peasants (1923).

Despite the ascertainment of significant imbalances, Venizelos' policy composed the most essential attempt for regional development (Burgel, 1976).

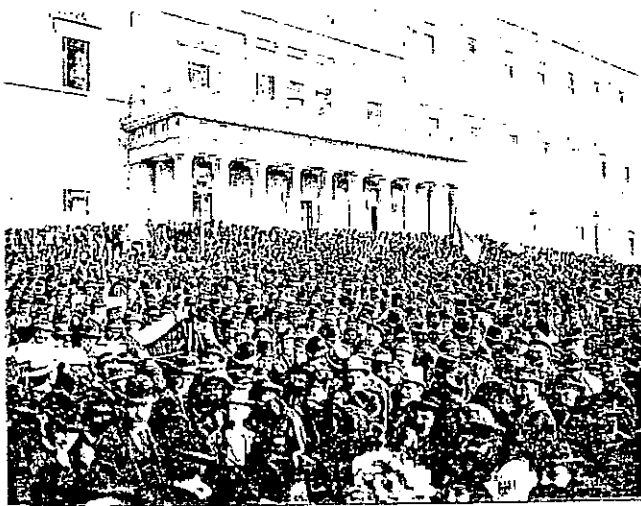
The structural imbalance of Greek Society increased the aggravation of the problem. The economic difficulties of the middle classes created a general displeasure after the disaster of 1922, and were reflected in the new orientations of democratic parties, such as the party of A. Papanastasiou.



68. Macedonia warriors in 1900 (source: Kathimerini)



69. Bloody clashes in 1901 in front of the University
(source: National Historic Museum)



70. People protesting in front of the Royal Palace in 1909 (source: Biris 1996)

The Asia Minor Disaster, shifted the ideological direction from the past and Europe, towards a common interest in the problems of contemporary Greece and a "return to roots" (Philippidis, 1984).

The image of the city started to change. In 1917, the first seven storey building had been constructed in Syntagma Square.

By the Decree of 27.11.1919, the height of buildings had been stipulated with maximum of the 12/10 of the road's width, not exceeding 22 meters.

Studies of Town Plans continued to be conducted by A. Balanos (1927), S. Leloudas (1921) and P. Calligas Committee (1924). These plans proposed various ideas, e.g. the expansion of the city towards Piraeus, the creation of new suburbs according to patterns of European garden cities, many ideas on the situation of main Public Services in various places, the division of the city into sections according to functions, etc. The last project proposed a type of management of the existing situation and problems, with no specific morphological directions.

In 1921, the Gounaris Government ordered the Ministry and Archaeological Council to demarcate the expropriation area around the Acropolis, in order to excavate the Ancient Agora area. With the interval of Asia Minor Disaster and the lack of funds, the excavations license was transferred to the American Archaeological School, which was obliged to pay for the expropriations.

In 1924, important decisions were taken, such as the construction of Vassileos Constantinou avenue on top of the Ilissos river, the positioning of the Administrative Center to be where Hilton Hotel is today, and also about the opening of 3rd September and Aristotles' streets.

Despite all these projects, Athens did not manage to acquire a general character and a rational organization, because of the negative reactions of land owners and the rate of the city's expansions.

On the other hand, various Public Services and the Ministry of Public Works used to create new building plots by decreasing the size of some scheduled Public Spaces, on the behalf of various social groups and land owners.

According to a general forestry programme, inaugurated by Queen Sofia, the Zappion gardens and the areas along Ilissos river have been formed, the slopes of Lycabettus, Strefi, Hymettus, Philopappou Hills and the Acropolis' slopes have been planted with trees, and many groves and gardens were created in and around Athens, as the Thission Garden, the Botanical Garden and the area of Mets.



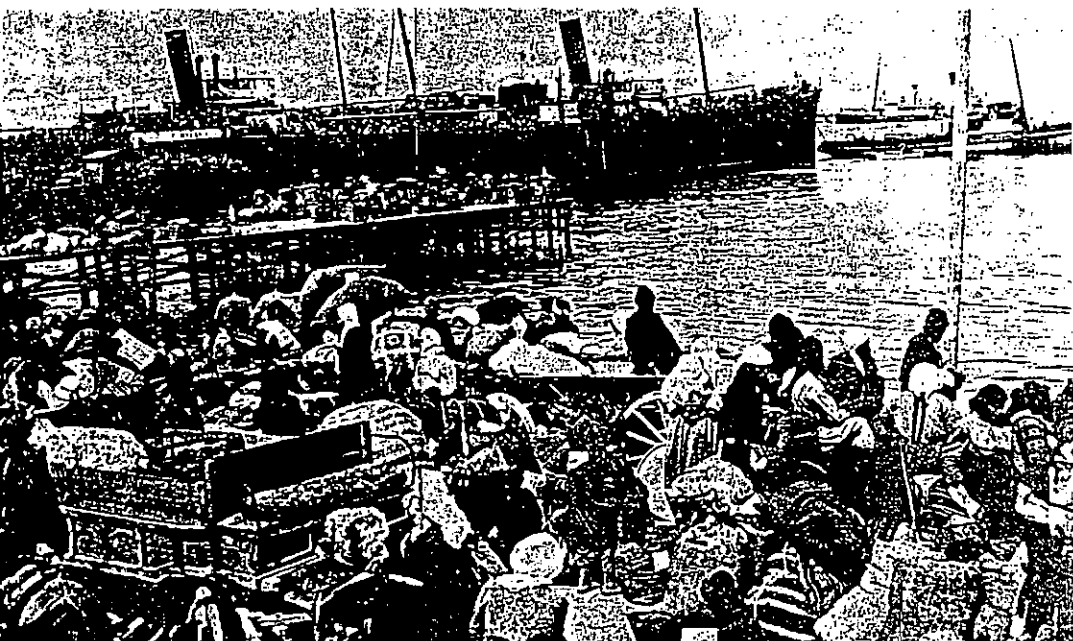
71. Panepistimiou street reaching Omonia Square in 1915 (source: Kathimerini)



72. Adrianou street in 1919, with the characteristic private yards and Neoclassic houses (source: Kathimerini)



73. Smyrna burning, in 1922 (source: Kathimerini)



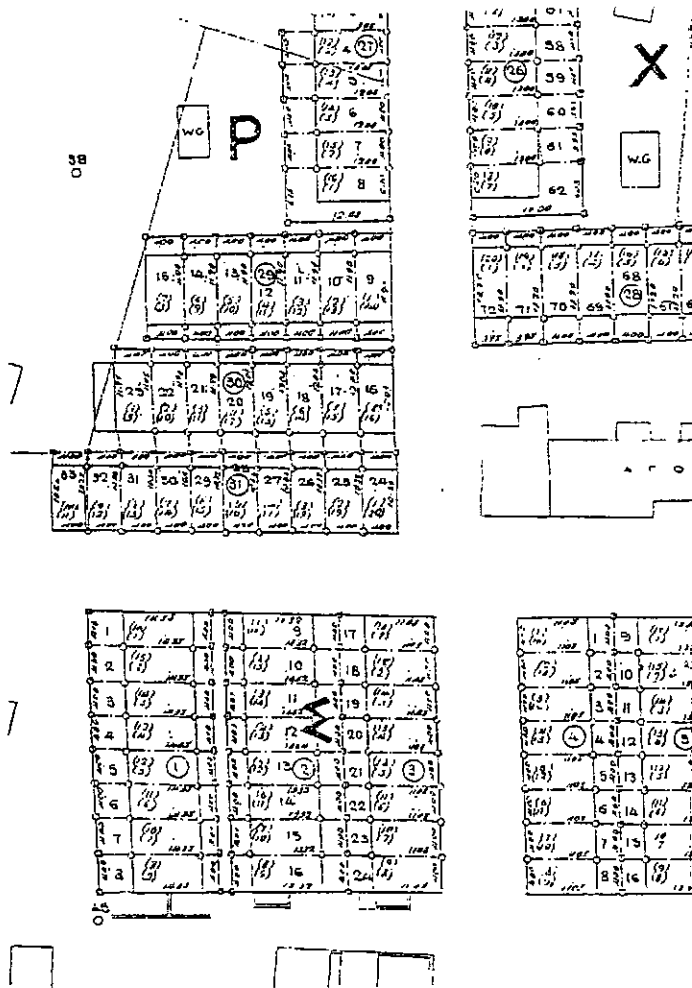
74. Refugees leaving Smyrna in 1922 (source: Kathimerini)



75. Refugees in the central Athens Railway Station in 1922 (source: ERT, 1992)



76. Refugees' Housing in Alexandras Avenue in 1933-35
(author's collection)



Refugees settlement in Nikea, offered as building sites (1930)

In 1922, after the disaster in Asia Minor, around 1.500.000 refugees arrived to Greece, 200.000 of which settled in Athens. The matter raised, concerned the distribution in the country and the accommodation of the refugees. The refugees' camps and later on, residential areas which were created, were socially homogeneous, and had special architectural characteristics. A sectioning of the city into a city of natives and a city of the refugees was noted (Leontidou 1989). The population increase had as a result the creation of an urban proletariat (Tsoukalas, 1968).

The first Organized Construction Programmes for the accommodation of a number of refugees, was created in Athens, Piraeus and elsewhere, usually outside the city area, in small ghettos, in order not to disturb city life, and near the Piraeus Industrial areas, in order to provide cheap working labour to industry. Such accommodation areas were Byron, Kessariani, Peristeri, Nikea, Tavros, N. Philadelphia, and N. Ionia districts (Biris, 1996).

The inflow of a great number of refugees affected the social structure of Athens. This stemmed from the differences of the two social elements, which was gradually absorbed, despite influencing the existing society. The spiritual life of Greece was reinforced by many intellectuals from Asia Minor.

On account of the critical and urgent problem of the refugees' settlement, the State established the organization of Social Housing.

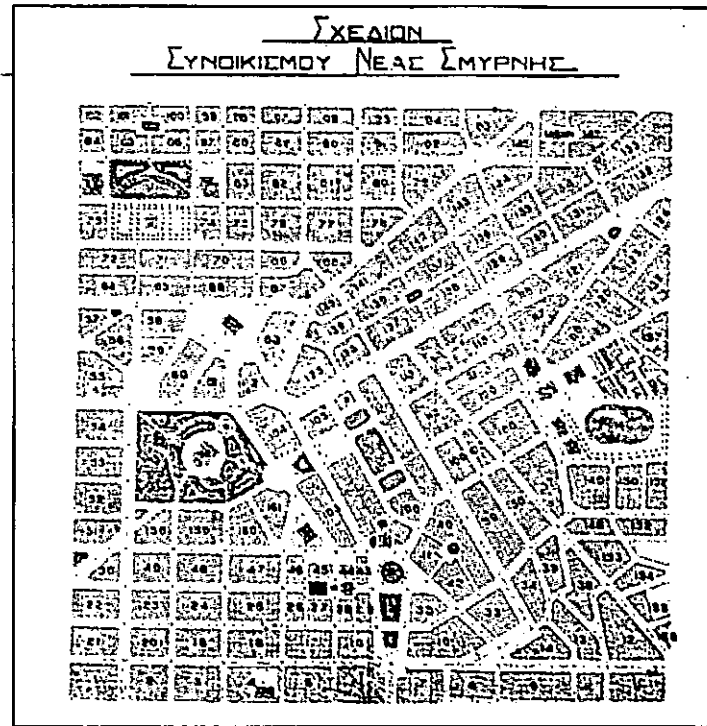
However, many refugees selected the way of self – accommodation housing, the prosperous ones in the city and the poor in any free land with arbitrary constructions. In this context, the vision of Urban Planning has been faded. The natural environment was being consumed by the new settlements, the hills of Athens such as Lycabettus, Pnyka, Strefi, were destroyed by quarries, and new building blocks had been created in the south side of Lycabettus Hill.

In 1923, the legislative decree concerning “Plans of Cities, Towns and Settlements of the State and their Construction” had been published. It was the first integrated, significant legislative text for matters of the city's construction and evolution. Six years later, the “General Building Regulation” had been published, (1929). It remained in effect for about fifty years, affecting the shape of the city's buildings.

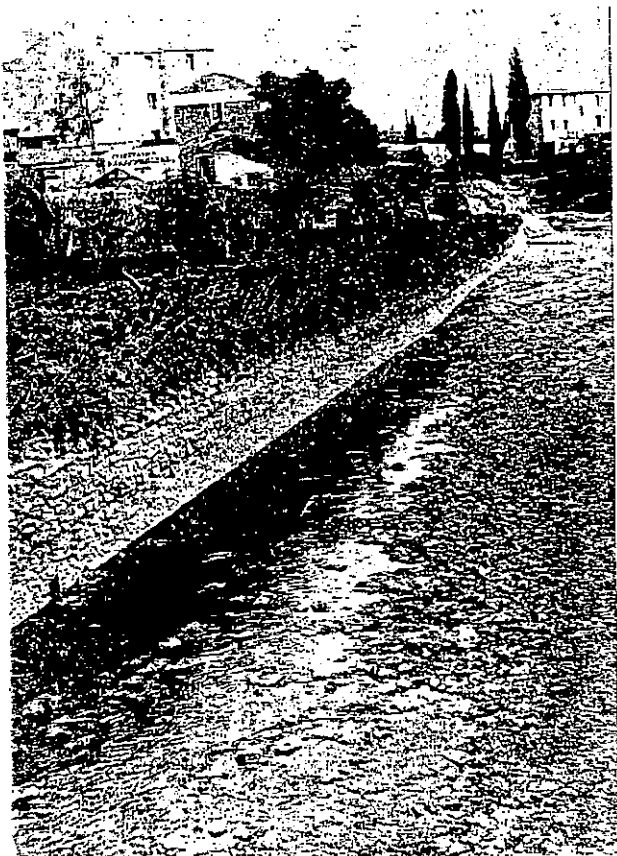
After 1922, many infrastructure works had been assigned to foreign companies: The water supply to American Ulen and Co, Transportation and Electricity supply to British Power and the Telecommunications to Siemens – Halske (Sariyannis, 2000).



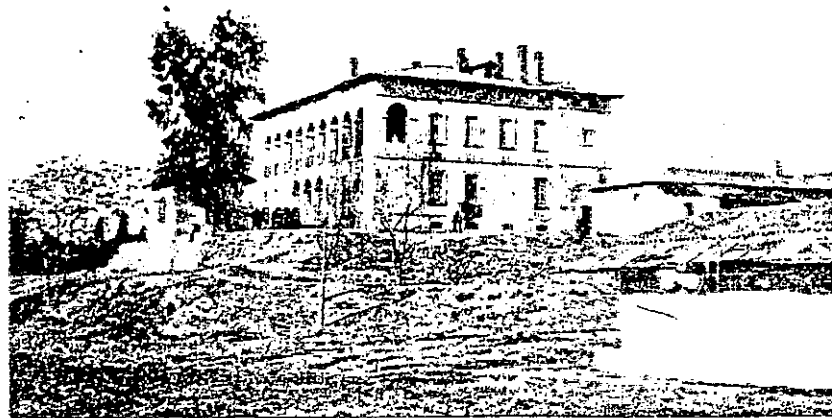
77. Eolou street in Haftia area, in 1930 (author's collection)



78. Plan of the Refugees' residential area in Nea Smyrni, in 1926 (source: Kathimerini)



79. Ilissos river when it was uncovered, with Duchess's Barbois mansion background (source: ERT, 1992)



80. Duchess's Barbois mansion in 1912 (source: ERT, 1992)

2.6. The Period of the first Democracy and the Restoration of Monarchy (1925-1940)

During the period between the two World Wars, the political instability continued until 1928. The dominance of the Liberals in the 1923 elections, obliged King George 2nd to leave the country and in 1924 Democracy was proclaimed (Tsoucalas, 1968). Between 1924 and 1928, ten governments came to power, three elections were held, eleven military revolts took place and the army interventions became a “necessary” element in the political life of this period.

The period is characterized by the lack of social and political balance and the failure of the democratic powers in forwarding social reforms.

Large public works, such as streets, ports and refugees’ accommodation programmes had been constructed and the Bank of Greece was founded.

The “Generation of the ‘30s”, an intellectual movement, introduced Greek Modernism. A common belief among poets, artists, architects and “men of the Letters”, was the creation of a National Art, with clear greek characteristics.

However, the idea of the “Greek Character” appeared again, ideologically and culturally strong. It also emerged as a notion of economic progress for the assimilation of western dynamic trends.

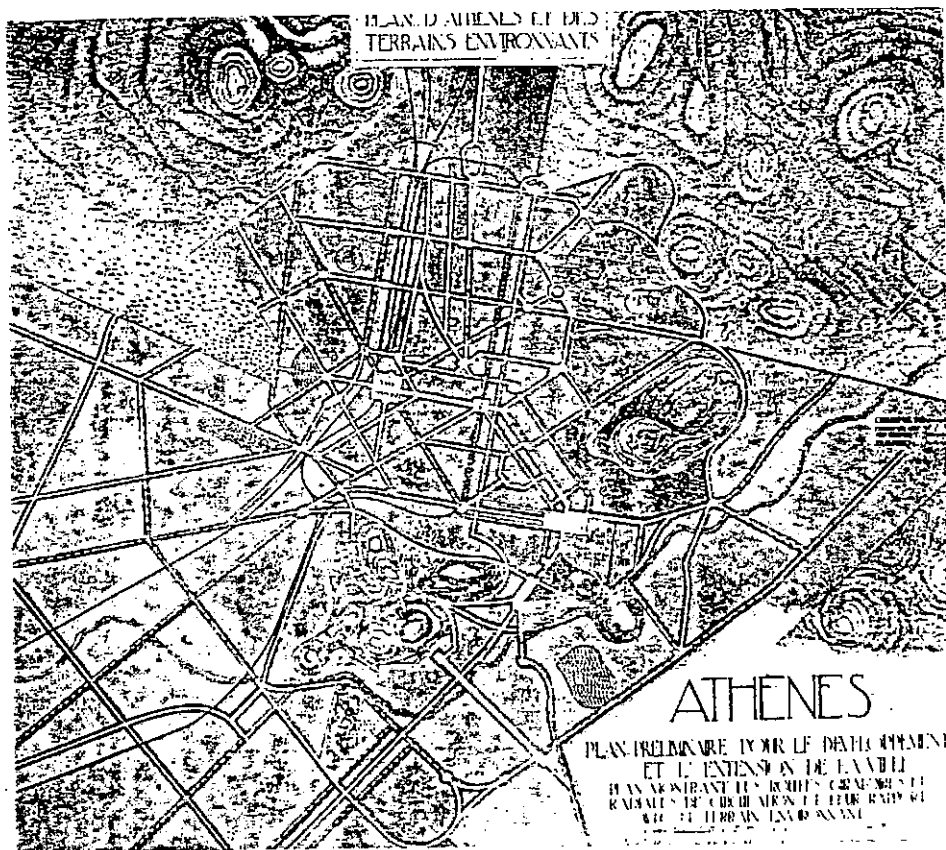
Economy evolved, commerce increased, but prosperity was mostly due to the input of foreign capital which entered the country under the form of loans.

In this way, the international crisis of 1931 affected Greek economy up to a point of bankruptcy.

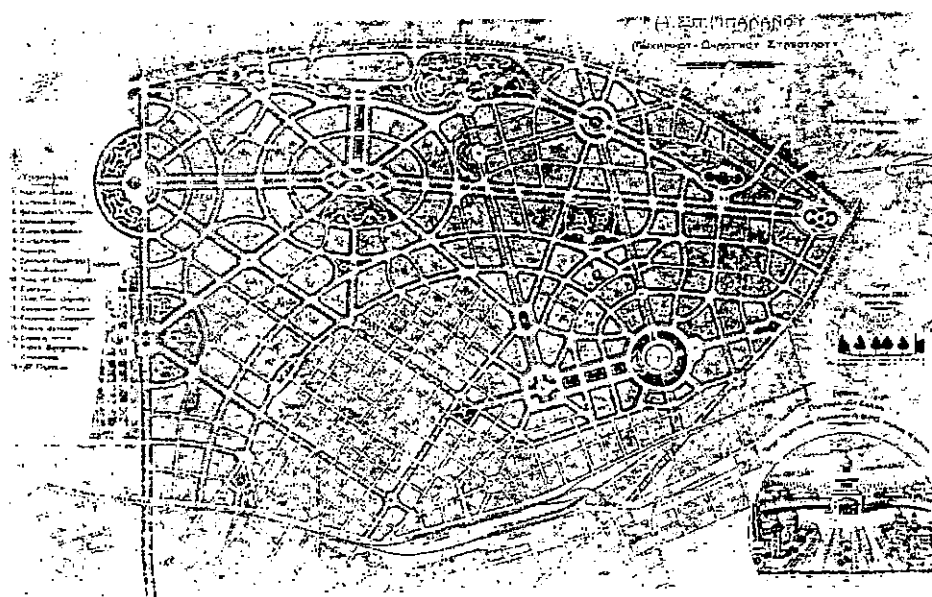
Following the crisis, the economy reached again its rate of growth, industry and shipping developed, but no decrease of unemployment was noted, creating strikes and various upheavals (Svoronos, 1976).

A succession of national and political issues increased the difficulties, having as a result a sequence of government and military coups, concluding to the restoration of Monarchy, (1935) and the end of Democracy. A little later, the dictatorship of J. Metaxas was proclaimed, and Greece met the group of the European totalitarian states. This was the culmination of the political representation crisis of the ruling classes, which would last until the end of the Civil War (Manassis, 1986).

The issue of the “Greek character” during the dictatorship was used in order to promote the political aims of governmental propaganda.



81. Th. Mawson's proposal for city's expansion (1918) (source: Design and Art in Greece, 1987)



82. A. Balanos' proposal for city's expansion in Kolonos, Sepolia, Kolokyinthou districts (1917) (source: Design and Art in Greece, 1987)

In 1925, the Municipality of Athens established the "City Plan Service", which was engaged to prepare proposals for the improvement of the street's layout and Town Planning. Thus, basic arterial roads were constructed, such as Acharnon, Galatsiou, Kavallas, Hamosternas etc., and squares were also created in various districts.

In the same period, many empty spaces (even hills) were annulled as planned Open Public Spaces, by the Ministry of Interior and offered for building development.

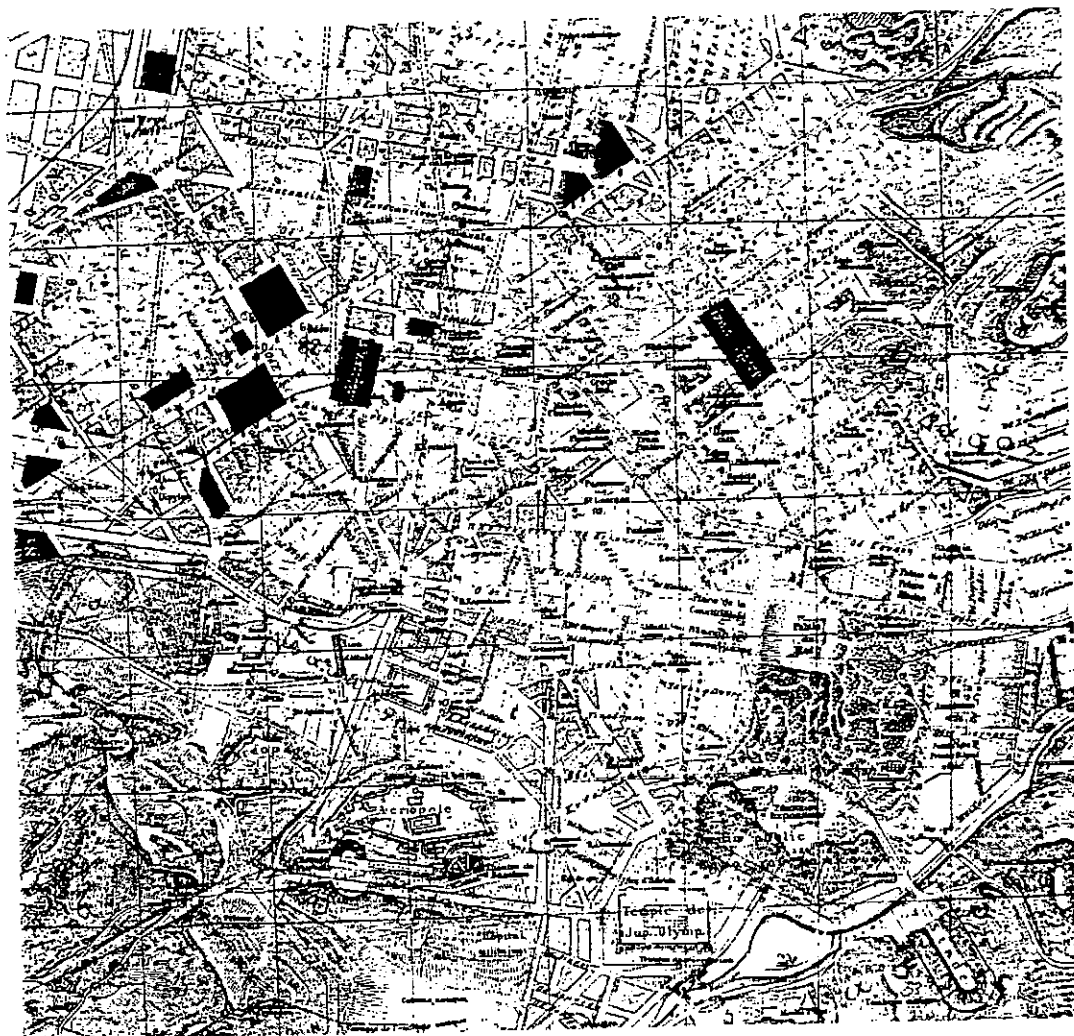
Since 1925, Transportation was operated by two companies : One for the electrical railway Omonia – Piraeus (EHS), and another for the tramways, buses and prospective electrical railway to Kiffissia (HEM) (Sariyannis, 2000).

In 1926, the electrical railway, built under Athinas street, was extended to Omonia square, while the works commenced for the continuation of the line towards Kifissia.

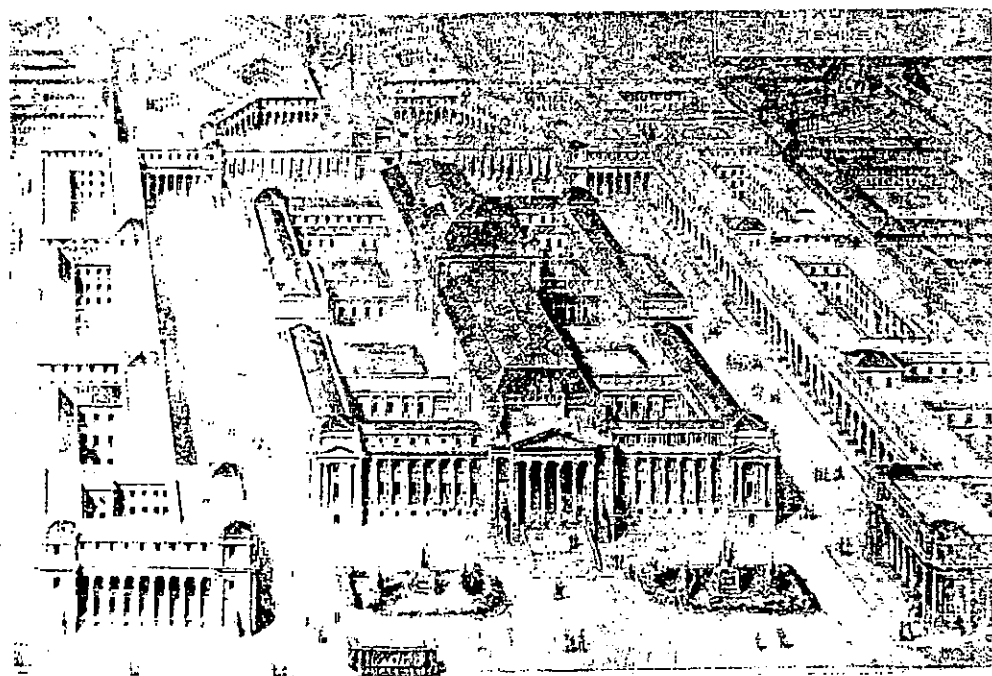
In 1930, the new electrical railway station and the corresponding changes in the formation of Omonia square, had been inaugurated.

Omonia square had been designed in European (Art Nouveau) style, with eight columns with sculptures (Muses) in their bases covering the ventilation outlets, the entrances to the underground railway station and kiosks. It became very popular to the middle class, which used to gather there. In the same period, the Royal Stables in the building block between Panepistimiou, Stadiou Voukourestiou and Amerikis street, had been demolished and a large building with theaters, offices, shops, had been constructed in its place. The capital investment by shipowners and merchant classes in land and constructions, caused the development of the apartment buildings enterprises, initially for the upper classes.

The most determinative fact for Town Planning matters of Athens, has been the adoption of the Law 3471/29 "On the proprietorship in storeys", i.e. "On Horizontal Property" (1929). The Law introduced a new period of city's development, with residential commercialization and growth in building height, thus leading towards this kind of apartment-block construction. The result was the change of the city's structure. An investment trend was noticed towards apartment construction instead of industrial or agrarian ones. Related to this issue, was the "General Building Regulation", published in 1929, by which the building volume permitted was increased, affecting the shape of the buildings and consequently, the image and structure of the city's Public Spaces, by promoting an intense exploitation of space and reduction of agrarian land and natural Landscape (Biris, 1996).



83. S. Leloudas' proposal for Athens' Plan (1918) (source: Philippidis 1984)



84. P. Calligas' Committee's proposal for the Courts' Center (source: Philippidis 1984)

Since 1922, the creation of upper class suburbs attracted the bourgeoisie. In this way, the suburbs Ecali (1922), Psychico (1923), Philothei, Ilioupolis, were established according to patterns of English “garden cities”, while regulations imposed the prohibition of other exploitation than residential use, a fact that isolated these areas from the main city life (Philippidis, 1984).

In large areas of the city, such as Exarchia and Patissia, neoclassical residence buildings for the middle classes were built by contractors.

During the whole period, the continued inflow of rural population into the big cities and mainly to Athens, caused problems of space organization.

The image of the city continued to change with the application of styles beyond Neoclassicism, such as Eclecticism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and also the greek Folk trends in search of the Greek Character. In Architecture, since 1930 the period is characterized by a massive implementation of Modern Movement principles, whilst a conservative modernization, parallel to French Modern Classicism had also been applied (Fessas – Emmanouil 1993).

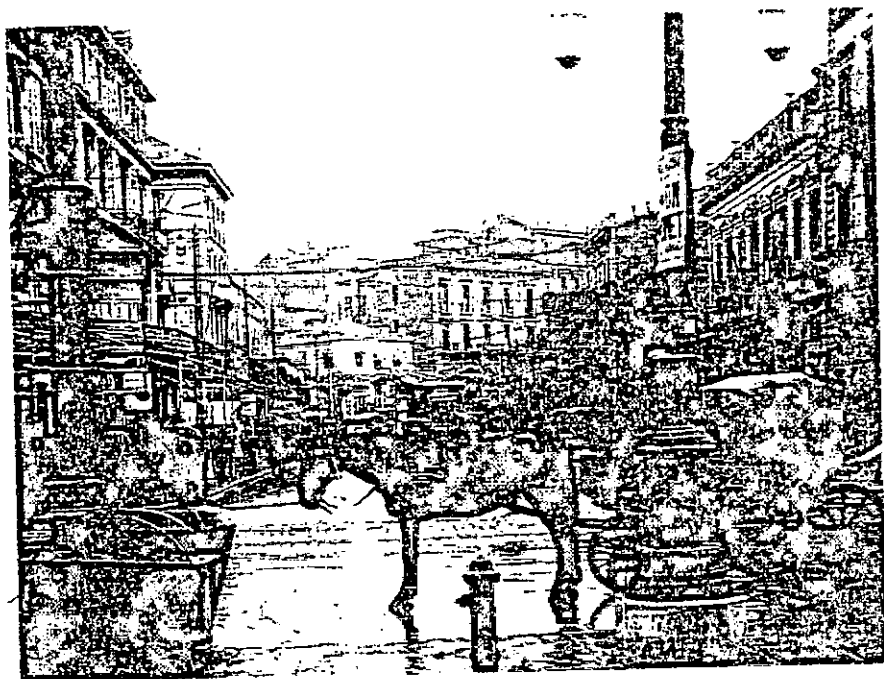
In the period following the Balkan Wars, reinforced concrete was introduced in building construction. Initially in restricted use, but later on, in full application in bearing structures, permitting the construction of higher buildings.

At that same time, Modernism appeared, as a tendency of Europeanization and as an avant-garde movement, expressing the need to face the future and progress, by rejecting the past.

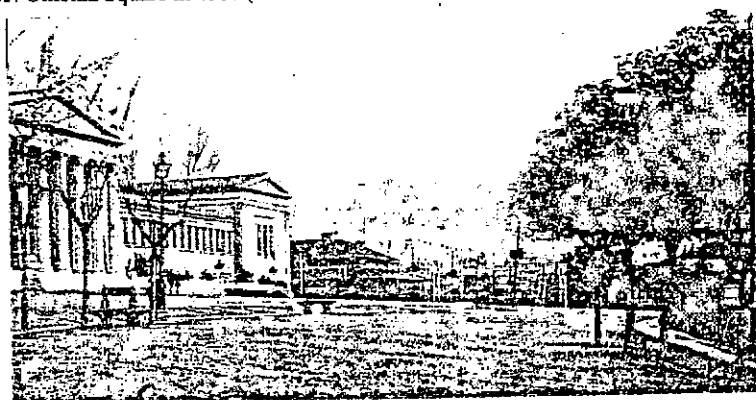
The organization of the Congress of CIAM (Congress Internationaux de l' Architecture Moderne) in Athens (1933), where the need was expressed to modernize the city, maintaining the social aims, greatly contributed to this spirit.

The Modern Movement spread in the architecture of private and apartment buildings, mostly in the central part of the city, such as Kolonaki, Exarchia, Guizi. In the areas near the Royal Palace, the architecture remained more conservative. The whole city could be categorized in six Urban Sections with common characteristics.

- The Urban Section, of central areas with functions of an administrative, Cultural, Commercial and Operational Character.
- The Urban Section of aristocratic areas, (Kolonaki) with upper class residential areas.
- The Urban Section of areas along Patission street, mostly with middle class residential areas.



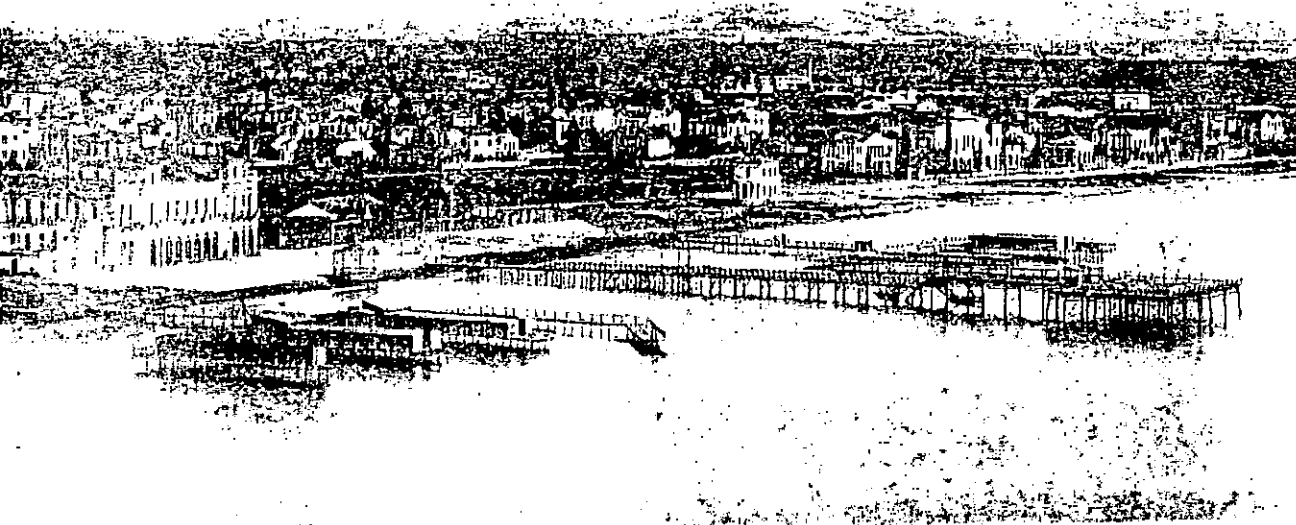
85. Omonia Square in 1910 (source: ERT, 1992)



86. Zappion in 1910 (source: ERT, 1992)



87. A Sunday morning in Syntagma Square 1910 (source: ERT, 1992)



88. Neo Faliro with sea bathing installations in 1910 (source: Biris 1996)



89. Neo Faliro with luxurious hotels in 1915 (source: ERT, 1992)



90. Stadiou street in 1920 (source: Benaki Museum)



91. North side of Syntagma Square in 1910 (source: Biris 1996)

- The Urban Section of areas on the western side of Lycabettus Hill, with residential areas of lower and middle classes.
- The Urban Section of areas of quarters in the old part of the city, with mixed residential and commercial land uses.
- The Urban Section of areas along Ilissos river, with residential areas of the middle classes (Biris, 1996).

Modern Architecture had been widely applied to new school buildings, following the spirit of social progress, with very good architectural results.

During this period, the formation of Public Spaces continued.

One of the most important constructions was the creation of the upper part of Constitution Square, in front of the Palace, which simultaneously was converted into Parliament Building, and the creation of the Unknown Soldier Monument (1929-30) in “modern classicism” style. The shaping of the area, by ground excavation and by using retaining walls, in order to form space for the Monument, destroyed the relationship between the Palace and the entire Constitution square (Marmaras, 1985).

In 1929, the E. Venizelos’ government with the Law 4212/29, declared compulsory expropriation of the residential areas between Aeropagus and the Ancient Agora, in order to execute excavations, and thus to elevate the ancient Landscape. The excavations, which revealed the ruins of all ancient buildings of the Agora and a part of the ancient town, were interrupted with the announcement of the World War II, in 1940.

In 1931, a new Law permitted the modification of Public Spaces to building areas, in case compensations were not paid. This fact led to many buildings construction in spaces scheduled to become squares or groves.

In 1934, the “Highest Urban Planning Committee” has been established in the Ministry of Transport, aiming to the “Protection of the Public Aesthetics of Athens”. By the Law 6171/34 “On contribution of the Public to the Formation of the Mars’ Field to a Public Use Grove of Athens”, the creation of the Mars’ Field Park had been decided. (Biris 1996).

The Presidential Decree of 1934 permitted the building height in the central area of the city to be up to 16,5/10 of the road width road, even higher than before.

In 1934, the “Technical Program of the Municipality of Athens”, was published. However, the only results were the plantation of the garden of Evangelismos Hospital, the creation of Dexameni square and Fokionos Negri in Kipseli. This was a Public



92. Part of Th. Mawson's Plan (source: Biris 1996)



93. Gardening in front of the Royal Place in 1910 (source: ERT, 1992)



94. Map of Athens with all city's expansions until 1930 (source: Biris 1996)



95. The Central market in 1920 (source: ERT, 1992)



96. Flower selling Kiosks in Omonia Square in 1918



97. Mitropoleos Square in the '20s (source: ERT, 1992)

space of great length, the construction of which was achieved by covering a natural gully (Philippidis, 1984). The creation of green belt has been also proposed, as a natural obstacle to control the city's expansions, a big grove from Tourkovounia to Psychico in the northern part, and also local groves along Kifissos river in the western part, in a total of 770Ha, while the existing ones were only 97Ha.

In 1939, following the decision of Mayor C. Kotzias, the surface of Municipal Theater square has been increased by demolishing the excellent Neoclassical building of the Theater (Biris, 1996). Since then, the character of the square was changed. In the Post War period, the square operated as a meeting point for craftsmen trying to find a job, with its coffee shops on the perimeter. A traditional element of the square were the postcards kiosks. Melas' house, one of the most beautiful neoclassical buildings of the city (E. Ziller), was assigned to the Post Office before 1940.

The same Mayor demolished the whole formation of Omonia square with the Muses' columns etc. In 1937, an entertainment building was constructed on Panepistimiou street, the Rex building with superimposed theaters and became a landmark of the city center. This area of the city had become a cosmopolitan recreational area, full of theaters, cinemas, restaurants and hotels.

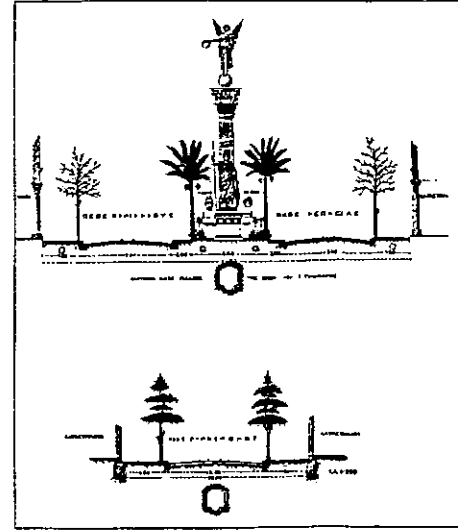
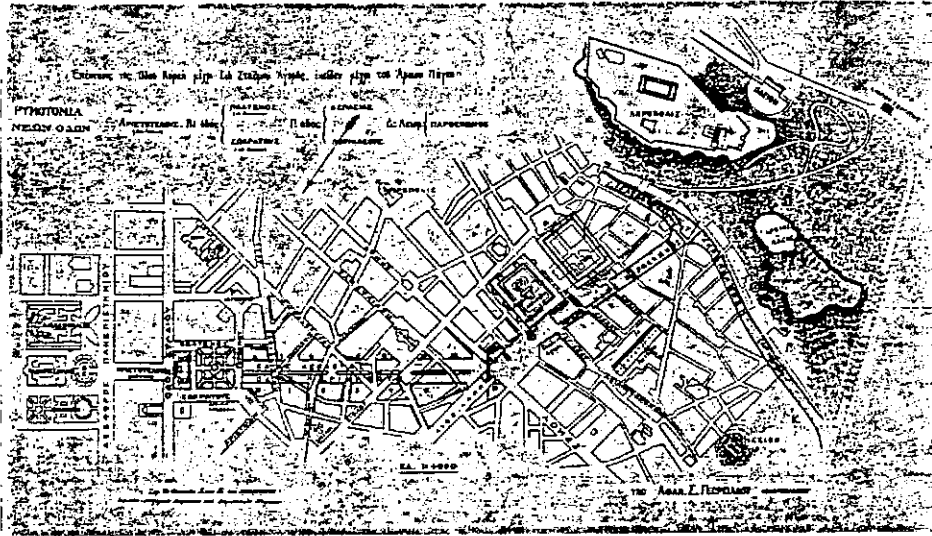
During Metaxa's dictatorship, the evolution of Athens has been supported, as the main center of authorities and administration, at the expense of the country's other cities.

The item of "Greek Character" appeared again as a compensation to the acceptance of the European spirit, which the governmental propaganda did not favor. It thus tried to impose a prototype of "Neo-Hellenic Civilization" (Philippidis, 1984).

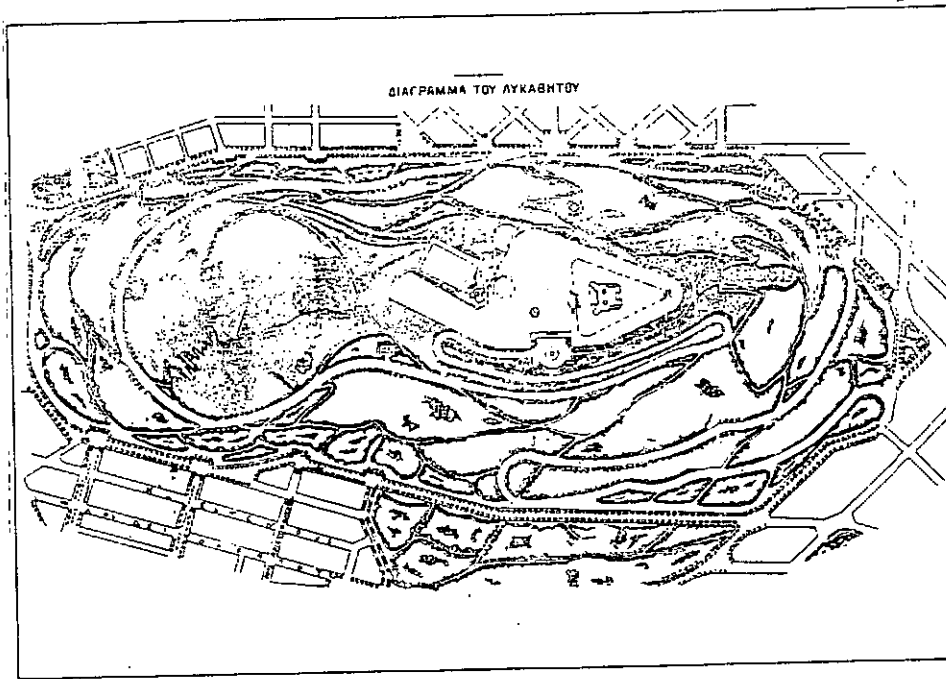
The population of Athens from 453.000 inhabitants in 1920, increased to 801.000 in 1928, and to 1.124.000 in 1940, with the proportional expansion of the city.

New districts for working classes or refugees were added, mostly to the western region of the city, near the industrial areas, in New Ionia, New Philadelphia, Perissos, and other ones in Tavros, Dourgouti, Harocopou, and Piraeus.

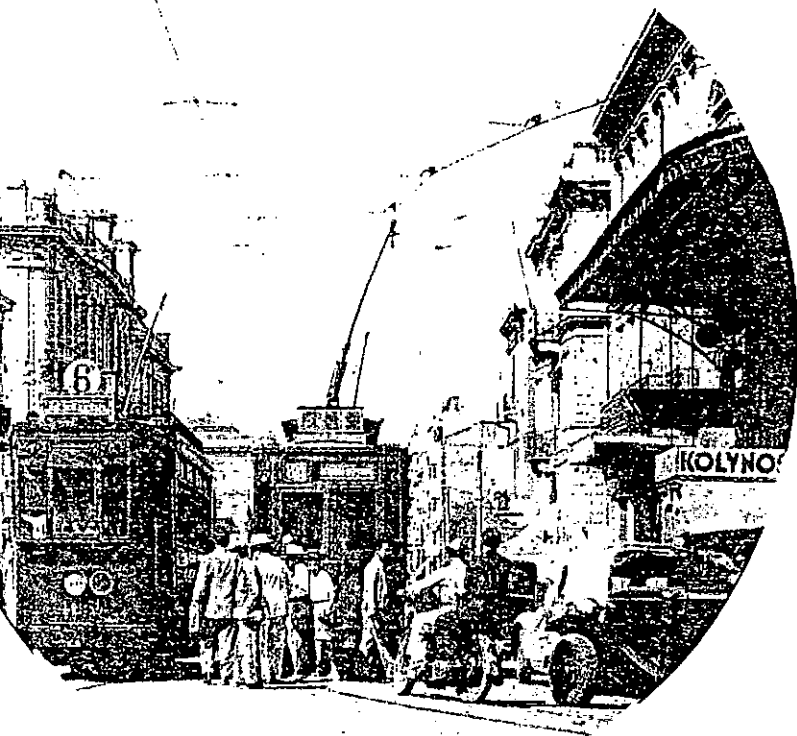
At the end of this period, the proposal again was introduced for the opening and extension of Korai street, from the University up to Monastiraki square, but without success. In addition, the Ministry of Finance which was built on the northern part of Klafthmonos square was demolished in order to increase the Open Space of this area.



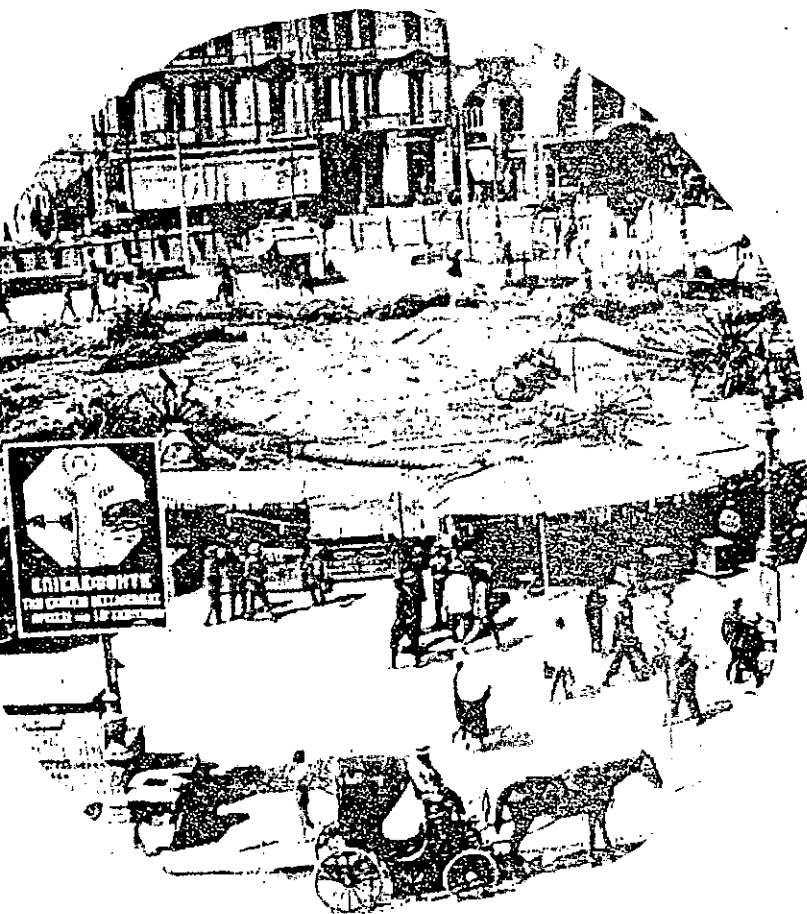
98. A. Georgiadi's proposal for the Perikles' - Aspasia's aveoue, in extension of Korai street (source: Design and Art in Greece 1987)



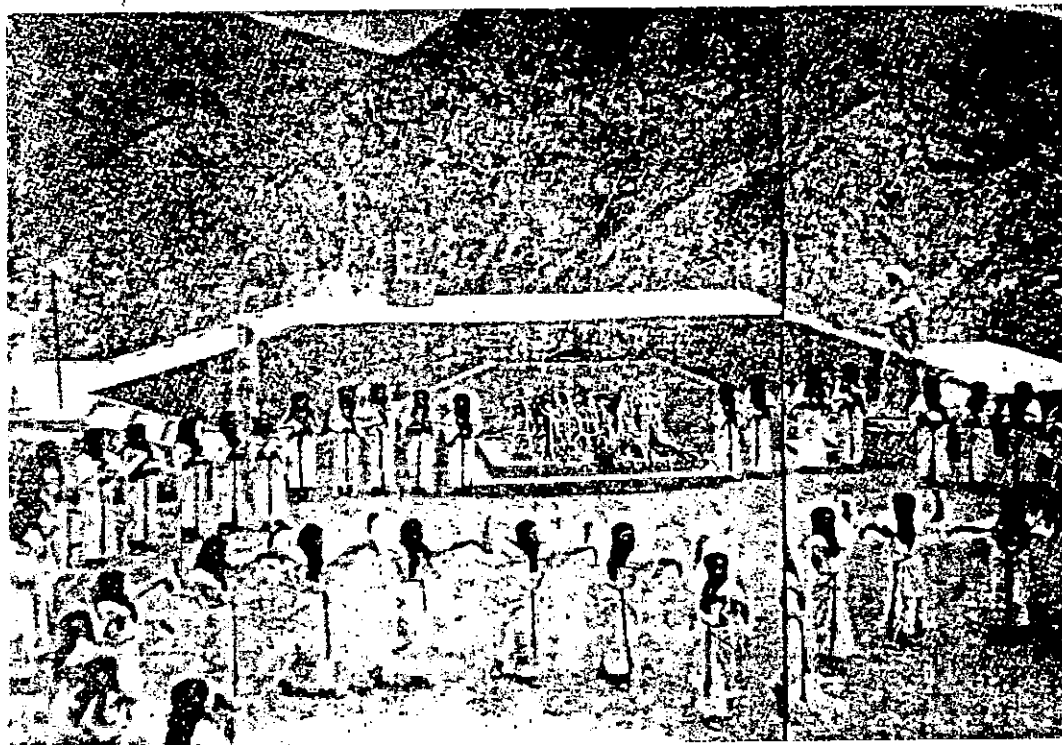
99. Kalligas' Committee's proposal for Lycabettus' formation in 1924 (source: Design and Art in Greece 1987)



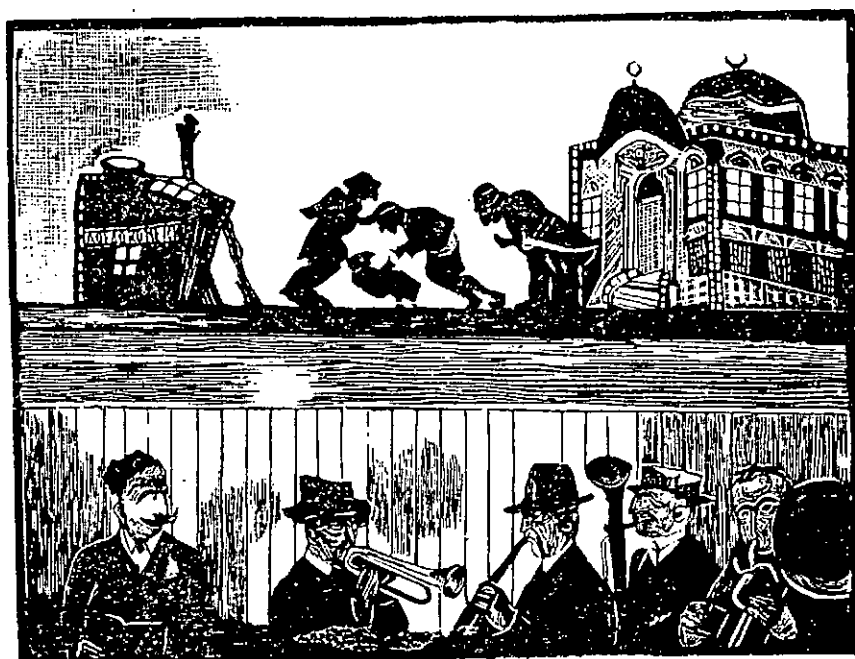
Athinas street with trams in 1920 (source: author's collection)



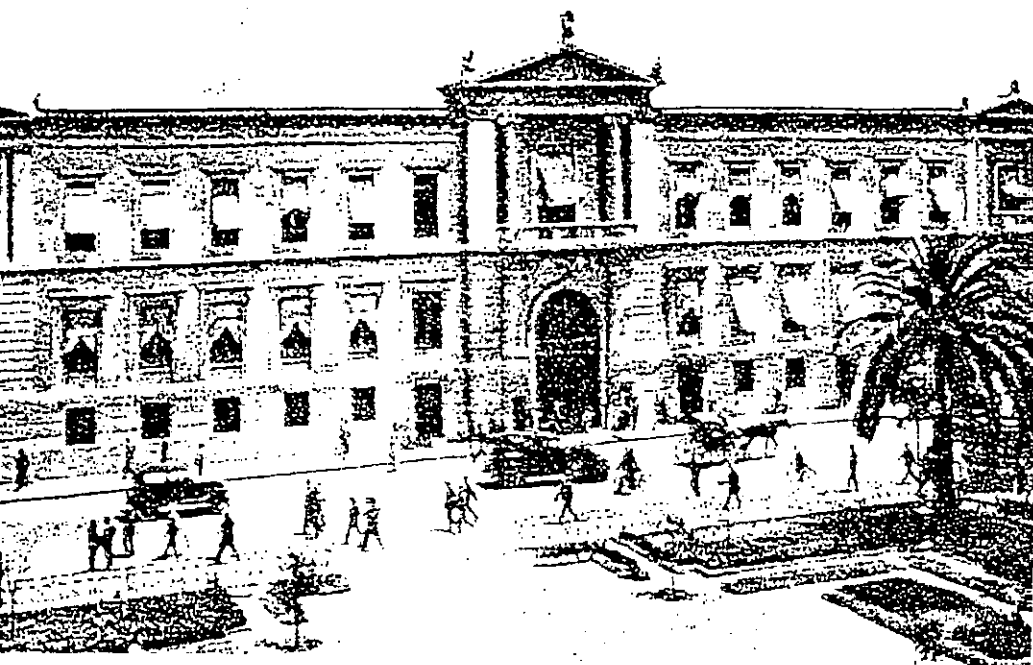
Omonia Square with excavation works for the underground railway station in 1930 (source: author's collection)



102. Delphian Festival in 1936 (source: Kathimerini)



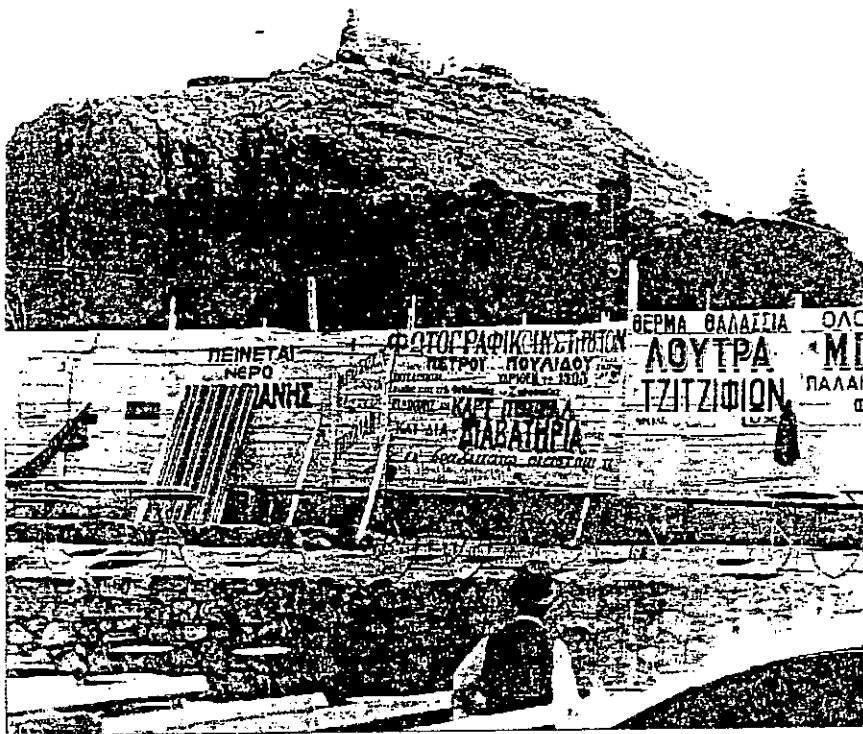
103. 'Shadows' Theater in 1920 (source: Kathimerini)



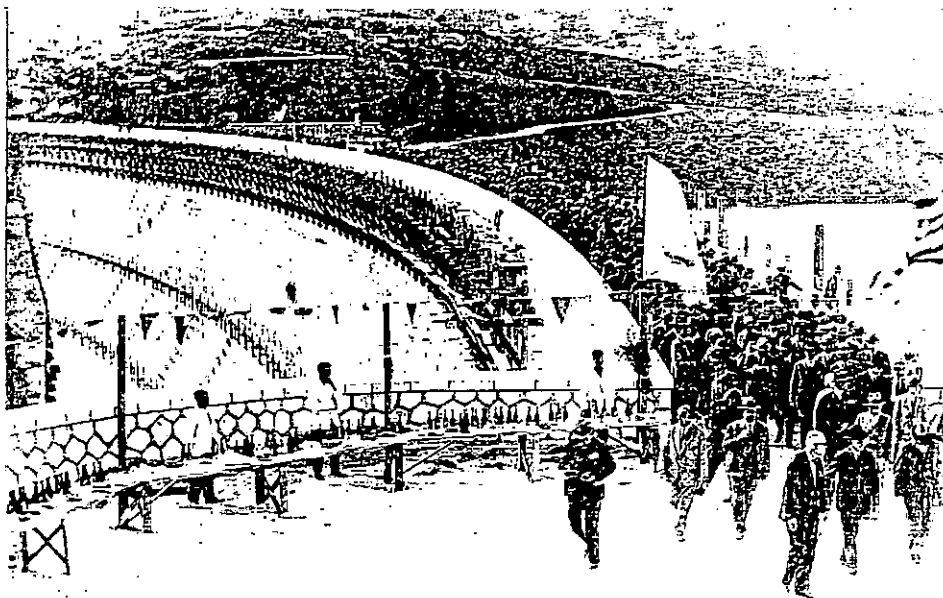
04. The central building of national Bank and part of the Municipality's Square
(1930) (source: F. Boissonas)



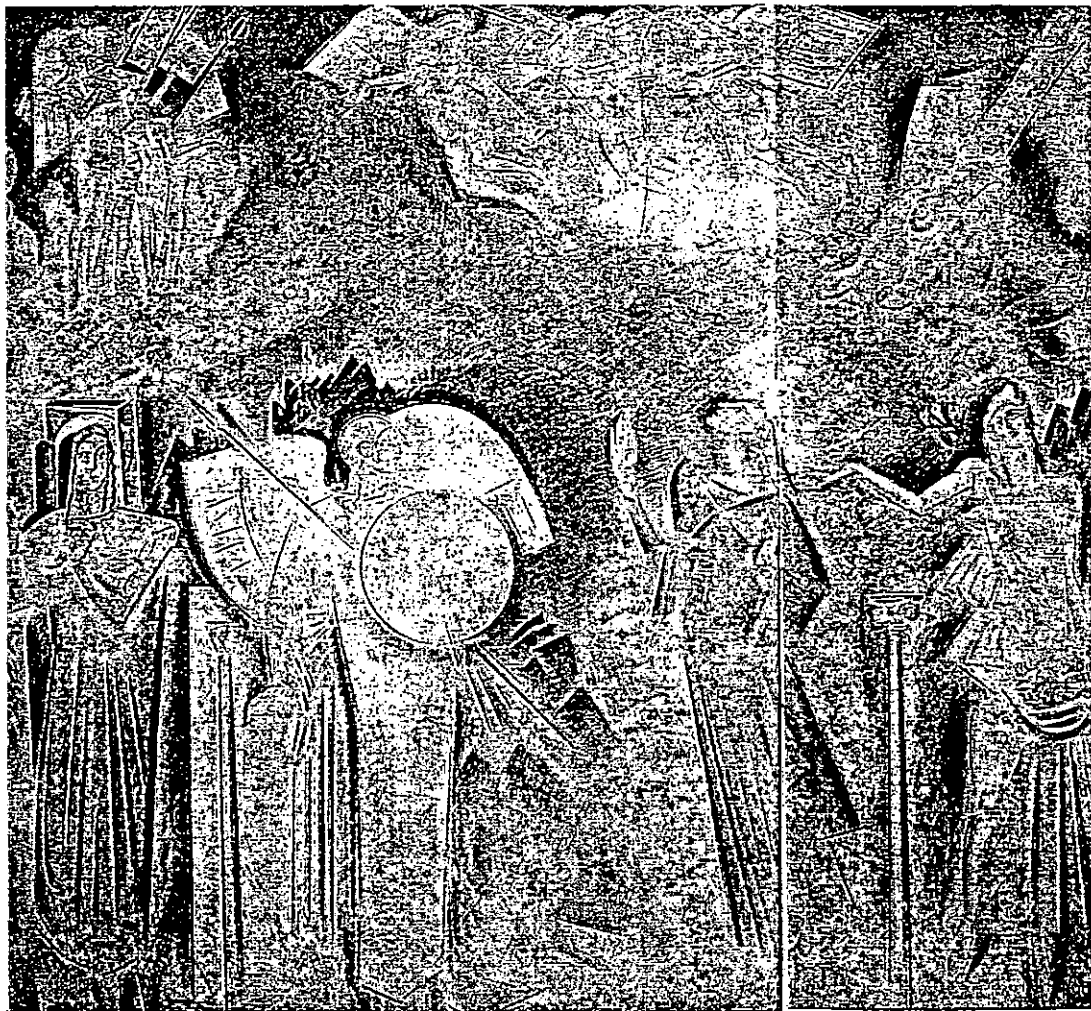
05. The building with offices, theaters, shops etc, which was built in the place of the
Royal Stables (1933) (source: author's photograph)



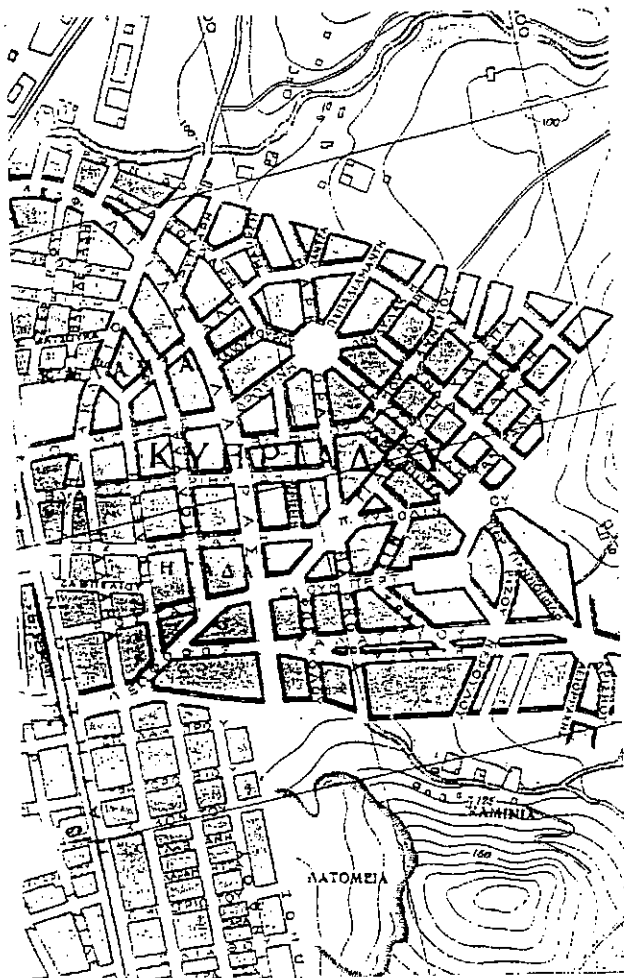
106. Temporary installations of the Shadows' Theater in Dexameni Square (source: ERT, 1992)



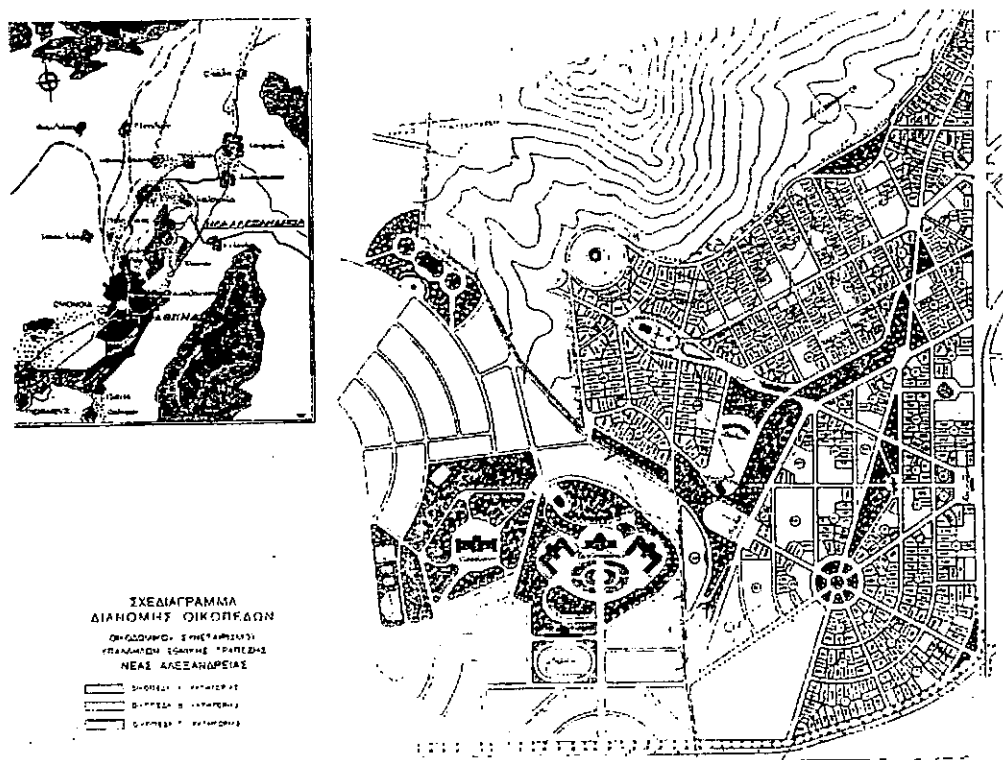
107. Inaugurations of the Marathon Lake in 1927 (source: Kathimerini)



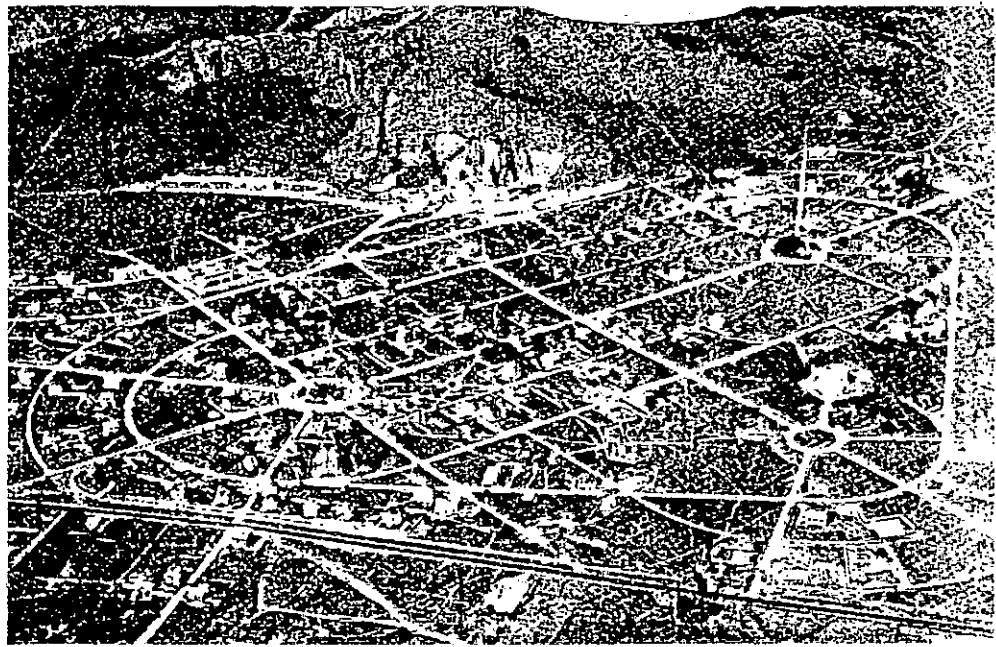
108.C. Parthenis' painting (1933)



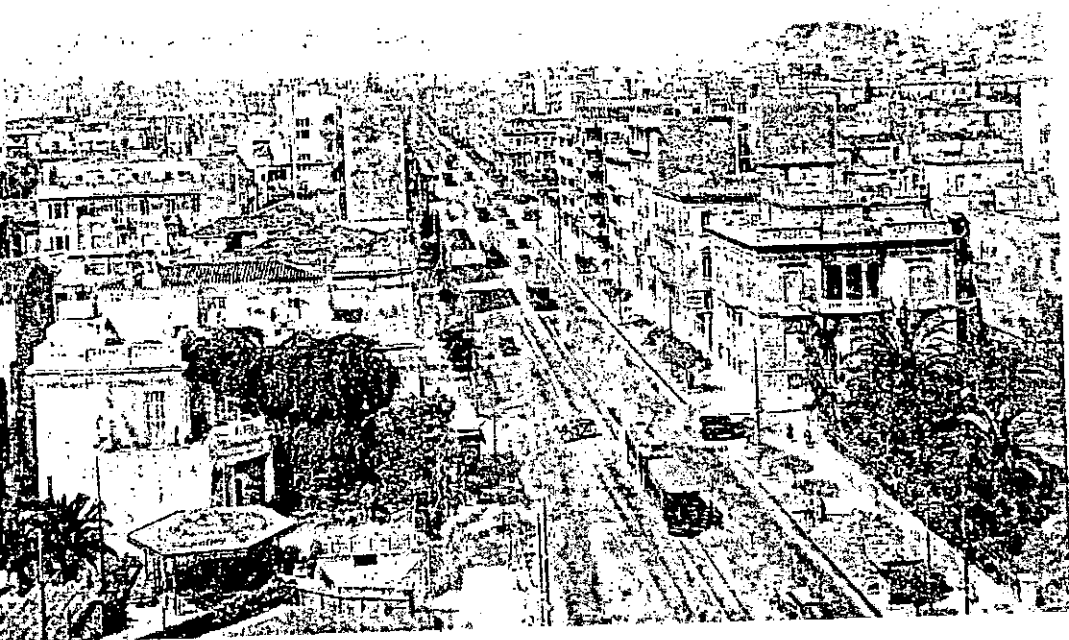
109. Kyriadou district plan according to private planning proposal (1930) (source: Archaeology 1997)



110. The plan for the suburb Philothei (1931) (source: Philippidis 1984)



111. Aerial view of Psychico in 1930 (source: Philippidis 1984)



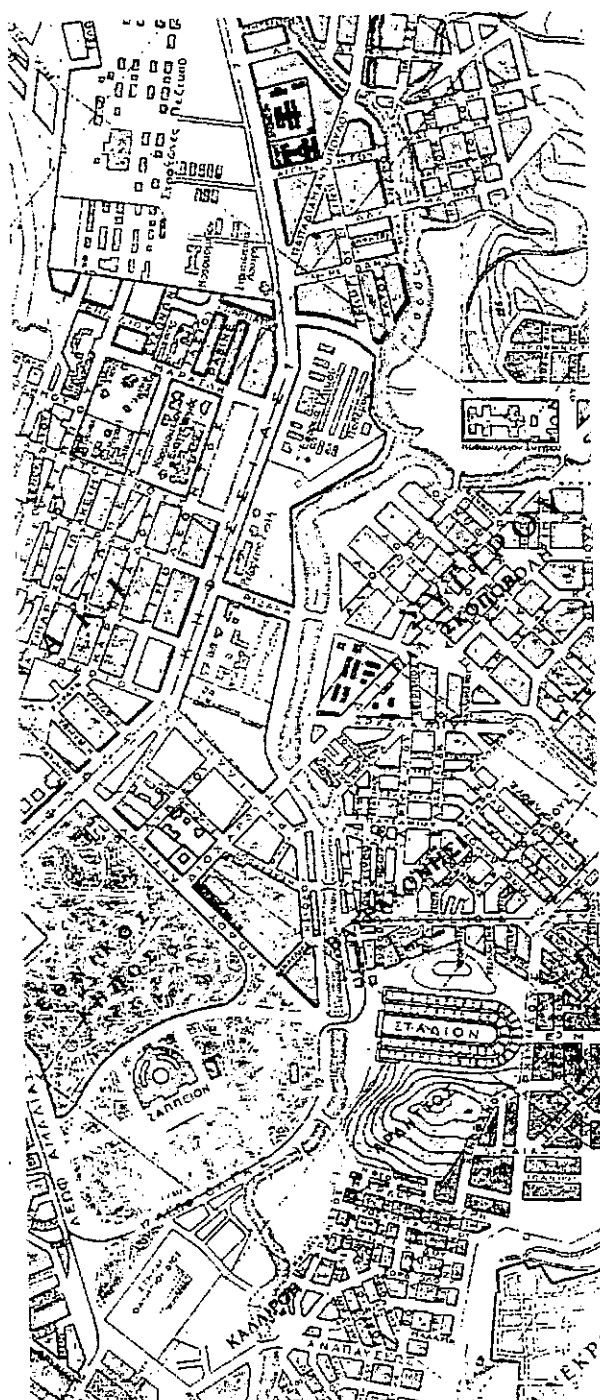
12. Patission street in 1935, with cars, trams and carriages (source: Kathimerini)



113. The Municipal Theater in 19139, before its demolition (source: Biris 1996)



114. The Heir to the Throne Paul, with Metaxas' officers in front of the Stadium in 1938 (source: Greek Literary and Historical Archives)



115. Map showing Ilissos river in the area of the Stadium, National Garden etc. Ilissos remained in its natural situation until 1939 (source: Biris 1996)

In 1939, the study for the formation of Vassileos Constantinou street was completed by the Municipality of Athens. Surprisingly, it was approved by the Germans in 1941, during the occupation of Athens.

The Park of Mars' Field with its pleasant grove was created by the Law 6171 / 34 and its characteristic feature was the «Heroes' street» with many sculptures of Heroes who fought against the Turks, in the central promenade road.

The Mars' Field Park, having an area of 22Ha, was created as a counterbalance to the intense construction and density of Patisson and Kypseli areas, in order to offer recreation areas to inhabitants, and still remains the biggest Urban Park in Athens.

It has a conventional design of green areas, curved routes, and long linear axes on the pattern of large French Public Parks of Mid – War period. The streets are asphalt covered and the bushes have geometric shapes. At the beginning of the principle axis the statue of King Constantine has been placed.



116. People in the roads the day of "No" declaration, 28th October 1940 (source: Kathimerini)



117. Greek soldiers, marching towards Argyrokastro (1940) (source: Kathimerini)



118. Al. Alexandrakis' painting from the Albanian front (source: private collection)



119. Greek soldiers in Albania (1940) (source: Kathimerini)

3. CONTEMPORARY SITUATION

CRITICAL PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACES OF ATHENS IN THE POST WAR ERA.

3.1. ATHENS DURING THE 2nd WORLD WAR (1940 – 1945)

3.1.1. General

Greece went off to War in October 1940, when they rejected the Italian ultimatum and after the Italian attack which opened the way for the German occupation, which has been very hard for Greece. The first phase of the War, which took place in the mountains of North Epirus and Albania, was characterized by Greek victories over the Italians, and also by heroic attempts of the Greek Army, within conditions of hardships and lack of means and military stores, but with ample support of the Greek people. Since April 1941, the German Army invaded the country, supported by its Bulgarian allies, then gradually occupied various towns, and finally entered in an empty Athens (April 27th), and later on in Crete. Then the whole country had been divided in three occupation Zones: Italian, German and Bulgarian (Svoronos, 1976). The long period of the German Occupation started, which caused a great deal of suffering to Greek people. The victims of hunger, due to the tragic lack of foods, supplies and malnutrition, amounted to 300.000. King George 2nd and the government took refuge first in Crete (April 1941), and then in Egypt.

In May 1941, two students (M. Glezos and Ap. Santas) removed the German flag from Acropolis, and this has been the first act of Resistance against the Germans.

In September 1941, the National Resistance started to set up the foundation of EAM (National Liberation Front) and ELAS (National Popular Liberation Army) and later of EDES (National Democratic Hellenic League), with conflicts in the cities, mainly in Athens, and partisan war in the country. The Resistance, apart from the organization of the armed forces, took on also other forms, as the edition and the diffusion of “illegal” publications, by raising people’s morale and giving instructions of information or by following up and spreading broadcasts by BBC (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

Certain facts, such as the funeral of the poet K. Palamas (1943) motivated people’s concentration and declaration of anti German feelings.



120. Resistance youth (source: C. Balafas)



121. On the Albanian mountains (source: Benaki Museum)

The Resistance operated as a helper of National Identity in opposition to the single cases of “collaboration” with the occupation authorities, either by individuals or by enterprises, bearing the disgrace of betrayal, contrasting the national sentiments and deepening the dissension.

Within the special circumstances of the Occupation, the belief to the Allies’ victory and the “reward” of Greece and the motto of “Great Greece” was revived (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

The economic disorganization and the complete disruption of transportation and the seizure of important industrial units by the occupants, created the conditions for the black market, which became a way of life, deepened the problems, and it finally caused the financial downfall of many parts of the population. Thousands of land properties were sold out in trifling values or were bartered for food supplies.

The spoliation and the sacking away of the Germans and the Italians since 1942, led the economy of the country to the brink of collapse and turned even the law-abiding part of population towards the partisans (Athens, Ekdotiki, 2000).

The occupation expenses had catastrophic consequences on Greek economy, as the occupants went for the country’s mineral wealth and all the important sectors of economy, and also for arbitrary archaeological investigations (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

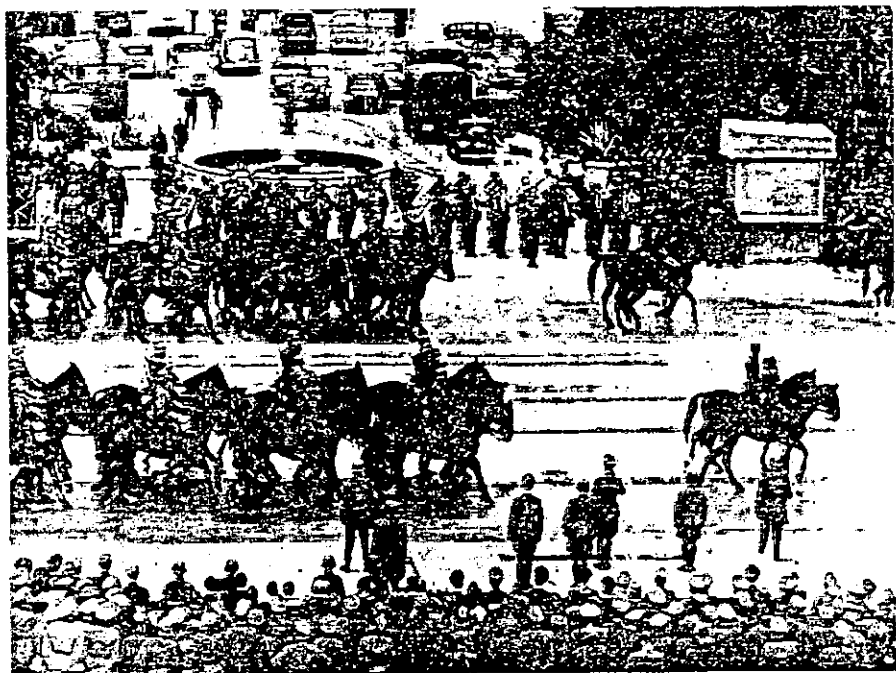
In 1942, large patriotic demonstrations and strike mobilizations started in Athens and elsewhere, with the collaboration of various Resistance organizations.

Moreover, the German administration, trying to solve the production problem, mobilized a general work rule.

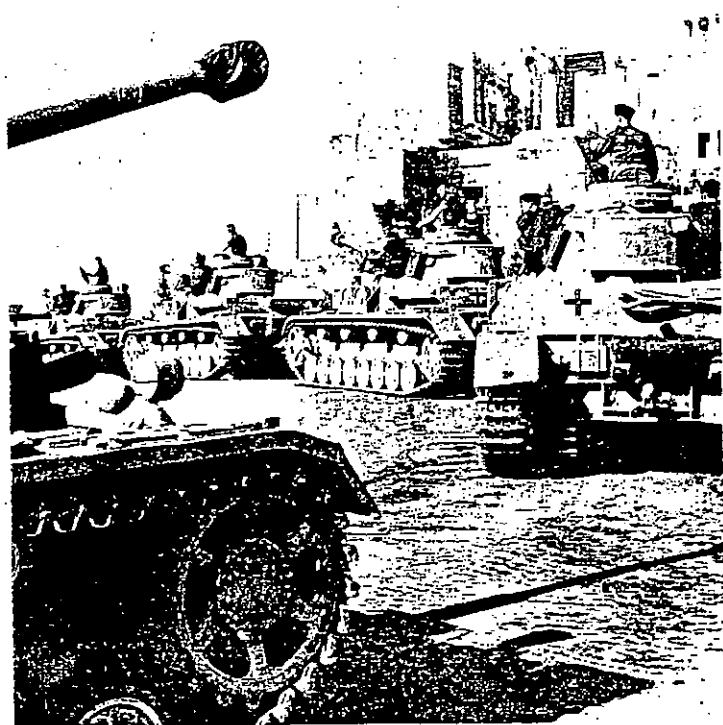
Sabotage operations, as the blowing up of three railway bridges, (Gorgopotamos’, Assopos’, and Papadias’) aiming to obstruct the supply of the Afrika Korps, were organized jointly by ELAS, EDES and British commandos. However, the attempt in 1943, for the creation of a unified Resistance Movement failed due to Kings’s opposition. In 1943, United States started to finance the dispatching of foods through the International Red Cross.

In that period, the German Army was defeated in Stalingrand when the countdown for the Axis forces, was set up.

In Athens, in 1942, the prime minister G. Tsolacoglou was replaced by the pro-German C. Logothetopoulos, and the latter was replaced in 1943, by J. Rallis. The same year, EPON (youth organization of EAM) had been founded.



122. Germans parading in Syntagma Square on 3rd May 1941 (source: private collection)



123. German army on the Acropolis (April 1941) (source: Occupation's Images)

The "Battalions of Order", established by prime minister J. Rallis, started operations against invalids of Albanian War and other people.

The reign of terror aggravated the situation, as on 1st May 1944, two hundred political prisoners were executed by the Germans on Kessariani, 1500 Jews were arrested and carried from North Greece to Auschwitz, and many more were shot all over Greece.

The juxtapositions which started between ELAS and EDES under N. Zervas, would worsen the clashes.

In 1944, the Political Committee for National Liberation (PEEA) was established in Evritania.

In September 1944, the "Caserta Agreement" was signed, and put all the forces under the British Commands, whilst the entrance of partisans in Attica had been forbidden.

In October 1944, the quick advance of Soviet Army towards the Balkans, obliged the Germans to retire from Greece, and so, the fight against the Axis Powers ended in victory, but with many casualties (Svoronos, 1976).

The contribution of the Greeks to the World Peace has been very significant for the final result of the war, as the Resistance in Greece delayed the march of the Germans to Russia, and finally caused the defeat of Axis.

However, various political facts and developments in Athens and Cairo caused the deep division of the Greeks with the Civil War as final result.

On 12th October 1944, Athens was liberated, and the first post War government, under G. Papandreou was sworn and faced a political imbroglio and a divided people.

The arrival of the British brigade aiming to control the situation, converted Athens into a battle field (December 1944), with the outcome of "Varkiza Agreement" (February 1945) which provided the disbandment of partisan organizations.

The transgression of this Agreement led to the Civil War, a nightmare chapter of Greek History, which seriously affected many aspects of the country's life, for a long time.

Some ELAS units, as well as A. Velouchiotis rejected the Varkiza Agreement and took to the mountains again.

The reign of terror that the extreme right launched, was spread to the whole country, as the Security Forces and the Organization X pursued the ELAS partisans.

In the meanwhile in Yalta, the Russians abandoned their intentions in Greece which was now counted within the zone of British influence.



124. The bus called "Gazozen" during the occupation (source: United Photoreporters)



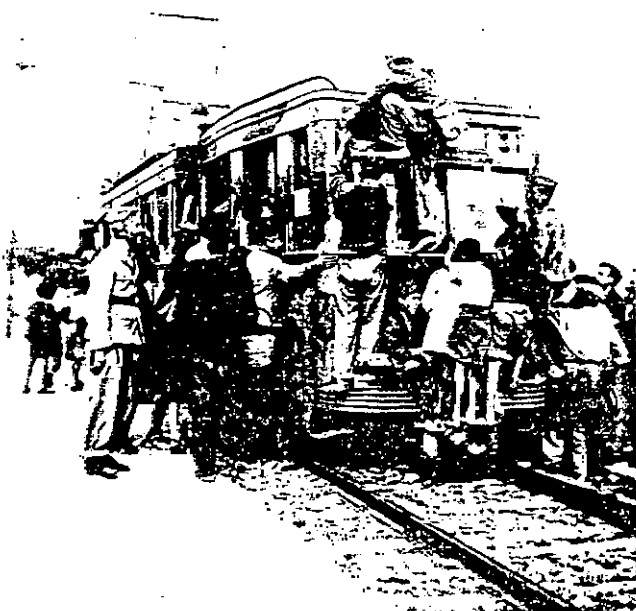
125. Children's common mess (source: Benaki M



126. Everyday's image in occupied Athens, attempt to use a lorry
(source: private collection)



127. Transferring an unable (source: private collection)



128. Attempts to get in a tram (source: United Photoreporters)



129. Hunger in the winter 1941-42 (source: Kathimerini)

The depressing economic situation could not be controlled by the government, despite the efforts by UNRRA, which became a significant economic and political factor of the Greek policy, by supplying food stuffs and achieving good results in the sectors of agriculture, health and social welfare (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

From January to April 1945, eight governments were sworn, but the real authority and the economic control were held by the British.

In May 1945, the War in Europe came to its end with the capitulation of Germany, while in June in Potsdam, the splitting of Germany in two parts had been decided, and this would be the beginning of the Cold War.

3.1.2. The Social Structure.

The Second World War caused many afflictions in the Social Structure of the country. The human casualties amounted to 558.000 dead, e.g. 7,65% of the population, the wounded 880.000 e.g. 12% of the country's population.

The effects on the psychological side of the citizens were very hard.

Athens lived its most tragic moments with a general down fall-material, moral and spiritual.

During the War, the population of Athens was increasing, as new crowds were added, consisting of refugees from the islands and the most dangerous areas (Crete, Macedonia, Thrace).

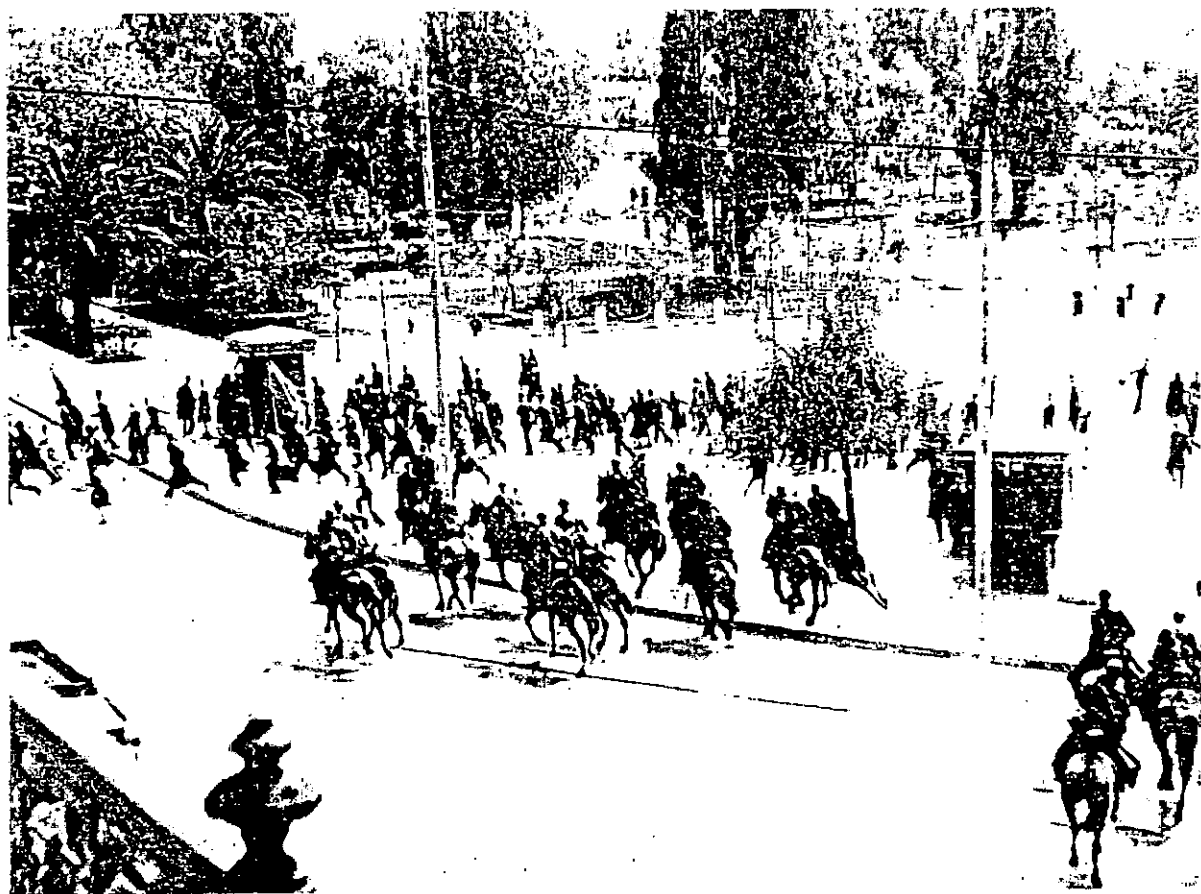
As the economy was transformed to a warring one, it was led to a vicious circle of economic and social disruption and recession.

The complete lack of communication with the government in exile, gradually created two countries, with different ambitions, aims and structure.

New centers of power, new leaders, new massive movements and new political objectives were needed for the struggle (Tsoukalas, 1968).

The initial reaction to the enemy invasion and occupation, rallied almost instinctively the social whole to resistance actions, under EAM and ELAS, but later the *"unity had been disrupted by the social combat"* (Svoronos, 1976).

In addition to these organizations, a number of others organized large parts of the population in Resistance activities.



130. Italian Cavalry attacks people protesting in Syntagma Square on 25th March 1943 (source: Kathimerini)



131. Common mess in an Athenian district in 1941 (source: Kathimerini)

However, there have been some cases of social and economic uplifting by antisocial elements who took advantage of the circumstances at the expense of others.

As EAM acquired control almost in the whole country, it offered to the villagers potential unknown to them.

The social life in the country had been organized by abolishing the traditional individualism of the countrymen who formed a new political consciousness (Tsoukalas, 1968).

The German Occupation inactivated the mechanisms of evolution of the agrarian class and their incorporation in urban policy, as they had been activated and developed through Resistance organizations (Mouzelis, 1978).

In that way, it is important to note, that the Resistance in Greece had been initiated as a movement of social reform, though at the end of the War period, the inhabitants of Athens were more unwilling to follow the communist authorities.

The “restraint of the masses” became the major item for the ensuring of the bourgeois order, which acquired a class struggle character.

The British intervention, apparent since the government’s passage to Near East and Egypt, aimed to the controlling of the situation after the Liberation.

The imposition of the Occupation caused social economic and political developments, as new social forces appeared, which claimed new political roles.

Their juxtaposition with the bourgeois political forces, finally led to the Civil War.

3.1.3. The Spirit of the Times

The Resistance era

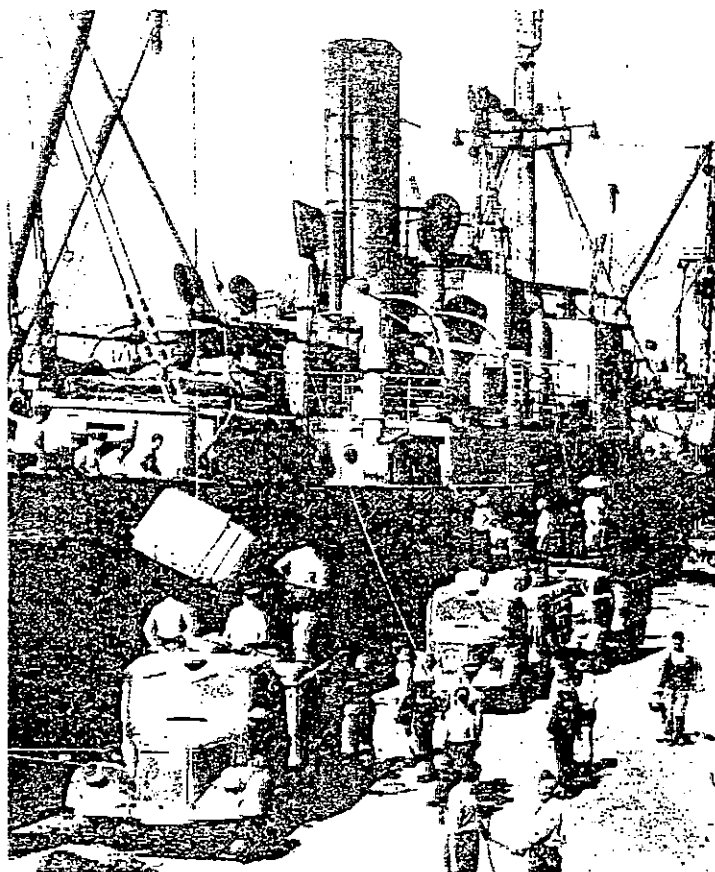
Since the beginning of the War, a new chapter started in the political history of the country, as well as in the field of spiritual creation.

Not only the initial enthusiasm and the nation-wide collaboration and commitment against the enemy, but also the disappointment from the lack of organization, the isolation, and the National Split, affected the spiritual life of the country.

The attempt by the Germans to impose their cultural policy met the general reaction.



132. After an explosion a pro-fascist organization (ESPO) in September 1942
(source: private collection)



133. Piraeus port destroyed by bombings, operates only for occupants' necessities,
in June 1941 (source: Kathimerini)

The reign of terror, which was imposed by the conqueror was aggravated by the numerous arrests and executions, as well as the road blocks in popular and refugee districts.

In 1944, as the liberation of Athens was near, the hate, the conflicts, the political and social segregation prevailed, based on the social inequalities, created in the period of Occupation (Margaritis, 1999).

An indicative fact is that, in 1941, in the maelstrom of war, professor J. Kakridis was indicted for having published a study in “monotonic” system, in a period where the educational system had stopped operating, as most of the schools were closed.

A characteristic of the era was the mental participation of the intellectuals to the spirit of collectiveness and the unceasing mental creation, in spite of all the sufferings created by the war.

G. Seferis was searching the definition and notion of the Greek culture : *“Greek culture does not mean something isolated, foreign and unassisted from any human attempt done around us... This particular element of Hellenism is embodied from time to time, in various forms (which happen to be opposite or contradictory) and is not determined”* (Seferis, 1944).

Due to similar approaches during the war, collected poems, short stories and theatrical plays, had been published.

The intellectual climate of the period was expressed, despite the censorship, by the newspapers with literary texts and columns, by well known authors and journalists i.e. P. Paleologos, D. Psathas, K. Varnalis, Gr. Xenopoulos, Sp. Melas etc, where a mental struggle was recorded (Boufea, 1999).

The intellectual movement, vivid during the whole period, was culminated in 1943. The books were considered as “articles of first necessity”, with consequence to a large production of books and literary magazines.

In the area of Literature, some of the most representative samples of the exceptionally large production of this period were:

In 1940, G. Seferis : Exercise book, Deck Diary, Od. Elytis : Orientations, Ang. Sikelianos : Sibylla.

In 1942, P. Kanellopoulos : History of the European Spirit, D. Glynos : What is and what EAM wants.



134. Long queuing in Patission street in 1941 (source: "Occupation")



135. Mussolini in a caricature
(S. Polenakis, 1940, source: War Museum)



136. EAM'S poster (C. Grammatopoulos, 1944, source: "Greek Posters")

In 1943, N. Gatsos : Amorgos, E. Venezis : Aeolian Earth, Od. Elytis : Sun the First, S. Myrivilis : Vassilis Arvanitis, K. Politis : Three women, H. Alexiou : Luben, Ang. Sikelianos : Sound Trumpets!

In 1944, G. Seferis : Trials, S. Tsirkas : Strange Men, N. Engonopoulos : Bolivar.

In 1945, Od. Elytis Heroic and Mournfull Song, A. Embirikos : Inland, Ang. Terzakis: Princess Izabo, P. Prevelakis : Desert Crete C. Kazantzakis : Asceticism. The Literary magazines Free Letters, Macedonian Letters and Kohlias were published.

The Theater was also present, trying to strengthen the national morale.

Ignoring the prohibitions and the danger, people were streaming to the theaters, because the gathering there had a political motivation.

The major role had the war revues and the war plays, which caused enthusiasm to the public, despite the hard censorship. Actors and public communicated through a code of allusions. Eight new theater companies were established, among them the Art Theater (1942) (Kangellari, 1999).

Theatrical companies used to travel on foot to villages, even mountainous areas in order, to present theatrical plays to local folks for the first time, without any means.

Some of the indicative plays are, in 1940, in Kotopouli Theater : War Panathenea, in Aliki Theater : Bravo Collonelo, Come and Take, Air, Duche! in Katerina Theater: War quadrille.

In 1941, in Kotopouli Theater : In the Rear, in National Theater : Oh! Children of the Greeks. In the National Theater also were shown plays by Goethe, Schiller, Goldoni, Moliere, with Germans and Italians as audience.

In 1942, in the Art Theater, there were plays by Ipsen, Strinberg, Pirandello.

The Cinemas were being swarmed by Italians and Germans, and this was the reason why they were not popular to Greek public.

During this period, the Greek Cinema made significant steps with three movies by F. Finos, which consisted a milestone for Greece. The Song of separation (1940), the Voice of Heart, and Applause (1943) (Delveroudi, 1999).

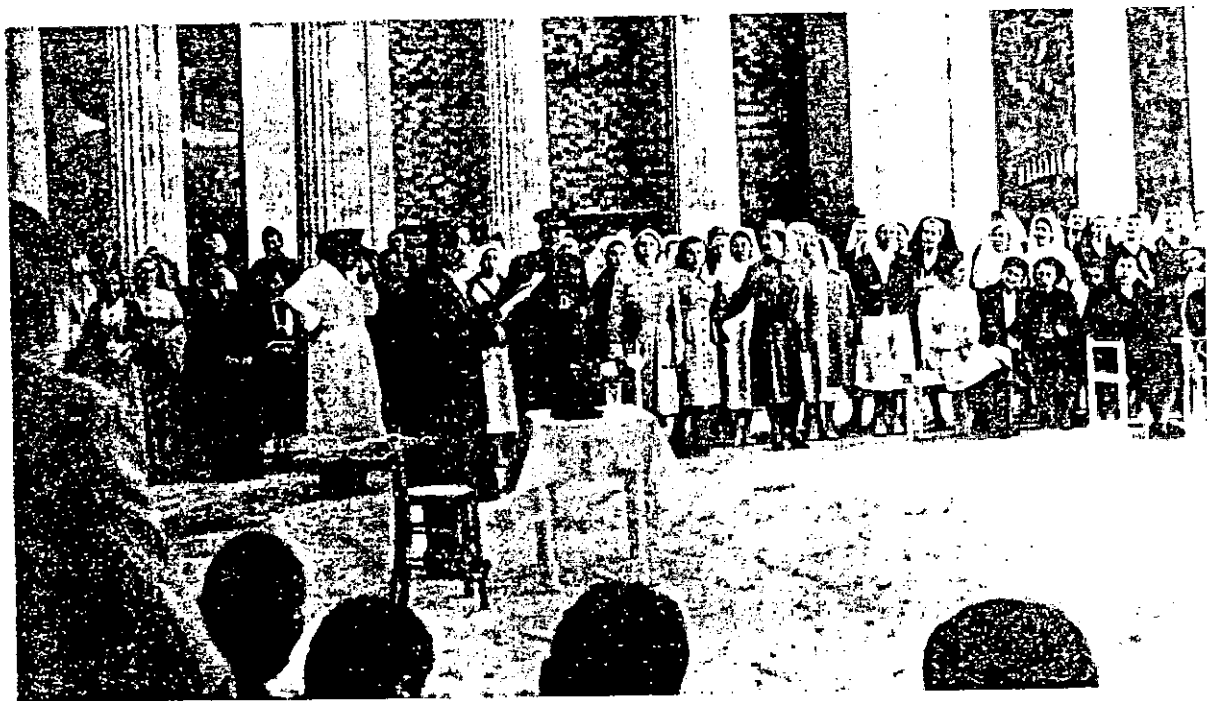
In the space of Fine Arts, since 1940 with the outbreak of the war, the Greek artists were already on the ramparts, either on the battle field, or in the rear, preparing posters, painting for books, organizing art exhibitions, and collecting funds to help the poor artists. A Tassos, V. Katraki, G. Kefallinos, C. Grammatopoulos, S. Vassiliou and others, contributed to the union of hearts with their art.



137. Sketch showing Germans blocking an Athenian district (F. Dimitriadis, 1942, source: "Shadow over Athens")



138. Signs written on the buildings (source: "Occupation")



139. A manifestation in Zappion, with actress M. Kotopouli (Theatrical Museum)

The Occupation climate encouraged some theoretical researches in Architecture. For instance C. Doxiadis had organized a group in order to collect elements, aiming to evaluate and assess the situation of Athens and other settlements, and their future needs after the War. Other architects were studying the vernacular architecture in order to determine the directions towards a new Greek architecture adequate for the country. (J. Lygizos, D. Evangelidis, J. Vassiliou, S. Tsaoussis). In the area of the Theory of Architecture, P. Michelis was preparing his considerable contribution with his work "Architecture as Art" (1940) (Philippidis, 1984).

3.1.4. The city

Since the preceding Mid War period, there was a considerable increase of arbitrary construction beyond the approved City Plan. This construction was based on private plans, in the various districts of Gouva, Dourgouti, Zographou, New Helvetia, Vironos, etc. and led to successive extensions of the City Plan between 1943 and 1939.

The built up area was spread to a much larger area, destroying all form of urban organization.

Moreover, after 1922, the construction of the refugees settlements significantly decreased the size of the city's Open Public and natural spaces.

Prior to the War, the "Highest Urban Organization of the Capital" had been established, headed by the prime minister J. Metaxas, aiming to compose the "Plan of Urban Arrangement of Athens", but with poor results.

In 1939, the Study for the creation of Vassileos Constantinou avenue, by covering Ilissos river, had been approved, but the construction delayed because of the War.

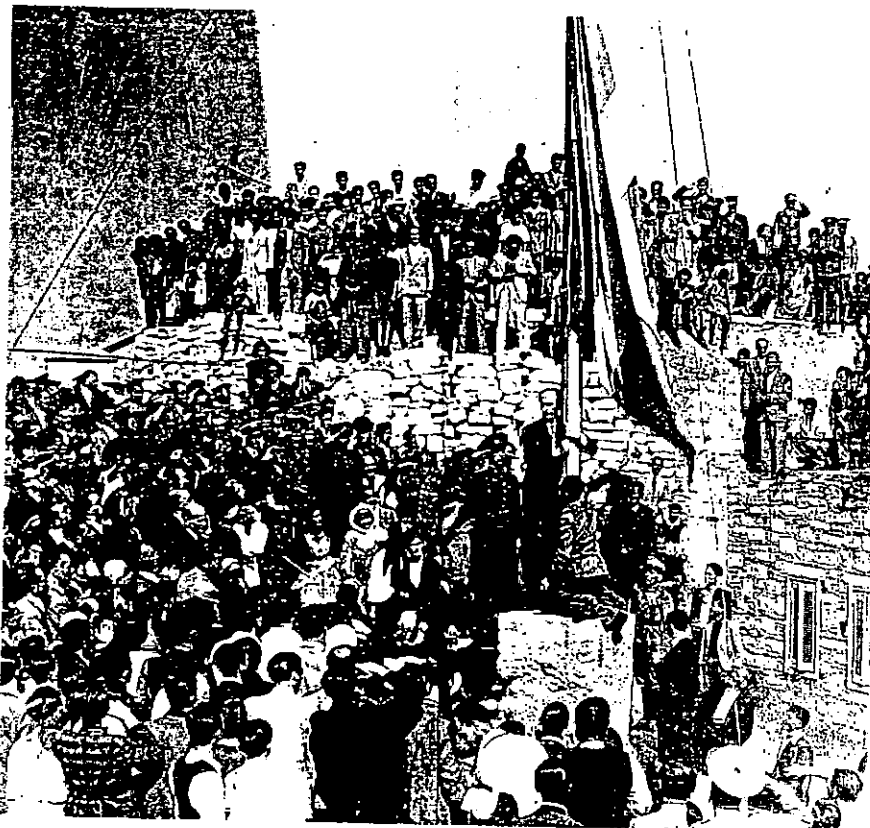
In 1940, the "Organization for the Administration of the Capital" presented the "Capital's Plan" studied by P. Karantinos.

The main proposals were about circulation interventions and opening up of roads, by destroying big parts of the old city, and without prediction for the public transportation (Sariyannis, 2000).

Since the beginning of the War and up to 1945, any kind of constructional activity had stopped with the exception of military installations, airports etc, by the conquerors.



140. Liberation day on 12th October 1944. People celebrating in Panepistimiou street
(source: United Photoreporters)



141. Prime Minister G. Papandreou raises the Greek flag on the Acropolis,
on the 18th October 1944 (source: Kathimerini)

During the German Occupation architect C. Doxiadis, with a number of associates proceeded to the registration of damages in the built environment of the country and the city of Athens, in order to make estimations of needs and methods of reconstruction.

Damages caused by the War to either buildings, or roads etc, were estimated about 4.4 billion dollars in 1938 prices. With regards to residences, 23% of the housing capacity, was destroyed and would just after the War, cause increased housing needs, approximately 840.000 units for the whole country (Marmaras, 1999).

In 1941, the port of Piraeus had been destroyed, following bombing by the German Air Force.

The bombing during the War, left Athens in a pitiable state, with a great number of buildings having been demolished.

The anxiety for daily survival caused a mobility in real estate. Specifically, about 60.000 properties (houses, sites, apartments) changed owners in Athens during the Occupation (Margaritis, 1999).

3.1.5. The Public Spaces

Prior to the War, there was a concern about the lack of green spaces in the Athens area.

In 1934, the “Higher Urban Committee for the Public Aesthetics of the City” had been established, aiming to deal with items concerning the formation of Open Spaces and Green areas.

Among other items, this Committee decided on the reformation of Mars’ Field to a Public Park (Biris, 1996).

During the Mid-War period, two large Public Parks were created, the Mars’ Field, a 22 hectares Park, of French landscape design, with big axes and curved walks, having a character of a popular park, and the green belt of Fokionos Negri, in the area of a curved gully, 600 m long and 80m wide, with recreational spaces, restaurants etc., in the center of the high density residential area in Kypseli (Papageorgiou – Venetas, 1999).



142. Celebration for the liberation (October 1944) (source: Kathimerini)



143. Athenians in front of the Unknown Soldier's Monument for the liberation
(October 1944) (source: Kathimerini)

Metaxas' Government had also planned to create a Public Garden in a former army camp, between Petraki Monastery, Dinokratous, Lahitos and Doryleou streets, but this attempt was held back with the outbreak of the war.

In 1940, just before the War broke out, rock blasting works had started on the western side of Philopappou hill, in order to construct a new open-air theater. This demanded the alteration of the ancient landscape and was fortunately stopped following strong protests.

During the War, works in Public Spaces was prohibited or impossible to carry out.

The city's Open Public Spaces, became the "theater" for demonstrations, political rallies, persecutions, but also of food rationing to the inhabitants.

Open Public Spaces changed, as they were converted into fields of battle and revolts (especially on national holidays) against the enemy, and later on, during the Civil War, into an area of conflict between opposing groups.

The atmosphere of Public Spaces was transformed due to the various anti-Germanic signs and slogans that supported the Greek liberation.

In this way, Public Spaces were used as medium for messages of great importance to the inhabitants of this period. Especially Syntagma Square, acquired a strategic and political significance, as in 1940, during the Greek - Italian War, the Greek Headquarters were sheltered in the Grand Bretagne Hotel, whereas during the German occupation, the German Headquarters were sheltered in the same hotel till 1944, with the relevant situations. In the adjacent Hotel King George, the German Garisson Headquarters had also been installed. The latter, was later installed in Korai street, which was known to be a notorious detention center and place of torture.

The city's buildings, roads, squares and public parks were left derelict. Many suffered damages and maltreatment from the circulation of military tanks and lorries, and war constructions of concrete block houses or fortified walls, etc, built by the occupants in main parts of the city, e.g. in Panepistimiou and Korai streets, and arbitrary buildings in Public Spaces (Biris, 1996).

Most of the inhabitants preferred to stay home, with limited night entertainment and professional activity, with reading as their main amusement.

Consequently, Public Spaces remained empty, as residents were obliged to comply to the strict circulation control that they were imposed by the Germans.

The difficulty in movement, due to the non-existence of transport means, aggravated this situation.



144. British commandos on the Acropolis (source: Greek Literary and Historical Archives)



145. British commandos send away captured citizens, following the occupation of EAM'S offices in Korai street, in December 1944 (source: Greek Literary and Historical Archives)

During the period of their operation, trams and theaters closed down at 5 o'clock. The obligation for obscurity of houses and Public Spaces, imposed new conditions of city life.

Despite all the sufferings of the War, in February 1941, the luxurious confectionery "Floca" had been inaugurated in Panepistimiou street. After the War it would become a significant meeting point for literary figures.

The natural Landscape around Athens, had been severely damaged, as trees had been cut down, in order to be used as firewood.

During the War, in the Royal Garden (later National) which once composed the retreat of literary men, artists, and politicians, trenches had been dug up, in order to be used as air - raid shelters for the Athenians. (Kerophyllas, 1985).

In the sector of Public Transport during the Occupation, passengers were serviced by three means: trams (yellow and green) belonging to the Electric Company of Transport (HEM), the Hellenic Electric Railways (EHS), with a line from Athens to Piraeus and Perama, and the Bus Lines, which was privately owned.

Trams, which offered the most important service, were always jam packed, up to the point that people hung precariously outside the cars.

The "electrical" (train) was the basic means of transport to Piraeus, while its tunnels were often used as shelters during the bombings (Nathenas and Kourbelis, 1999).

Buses, due to the lack of fuels, were converted to "Gazozens" a characteristic of Occupation period, i.e. a vehicle with a big tank which was operating at low speed with wood alcohol.

Also significant was the train to Lavrion which linked Athens with the whole of the Mesogia area (Nathenas and Kourbelis, 1999).

In conclusion, during the War period the development of Athens Public Spaces not only stopped, but it had a negative course, due to their abuse by the occupants.

The function of Open Public spaces had changed, as both Germans and inhabitants used them in a completely different way than the usual.

However, Open Public Spaces retained their role as means of communication and as places of Public protests (often bloody) against Italians and Germans. New symbols of Power were established in this period : Greek Headquarters and later German Headquarters had been installed in Grande Bretagne Hotel in Syntagma square, in order to control the city's center.



146. British commandos behind a tank in Socratous street, in December 1944

(source: Greek Literary and Historical Archives)



147. EAM'S assembly in Alexandras' avenue sports field, as King for amnesty, on

27th December 1945 (source: private collection)

On the other hand, Open Public Spaces, where strictly connected with the idea of Liberation, due to the heroic acts taking place there.

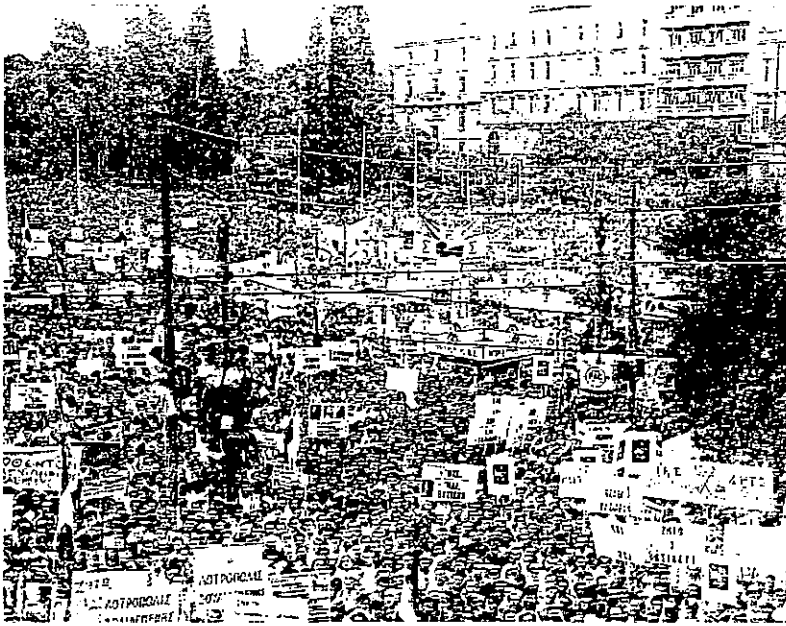
The built environment had been progressively destroyed and the Open Public Spaces were derelict.

The image and character of the city was changed dramatically.

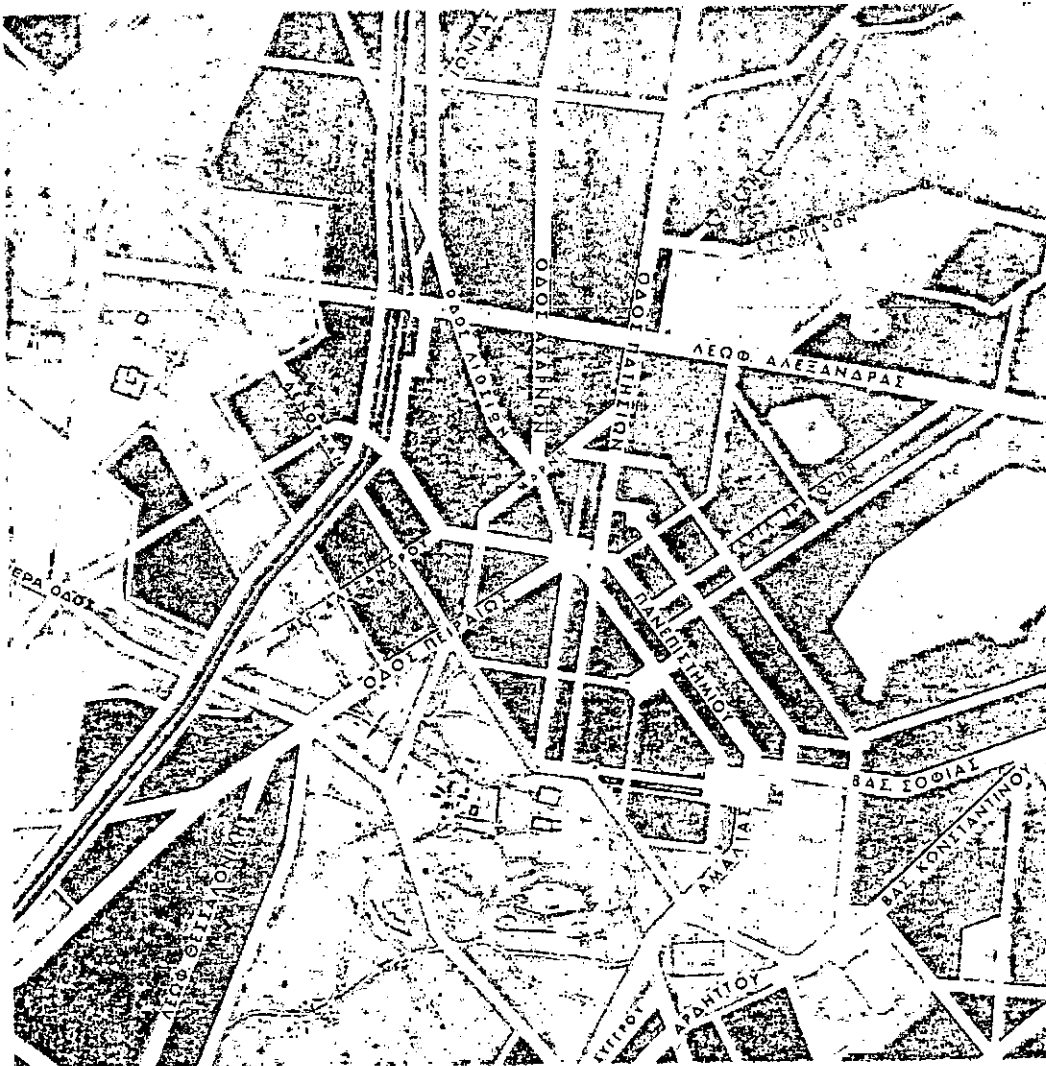
Open Public Spaces were usually full of inhabitants, protesting or moving for their activities, mostly on foot. In that way the city center was always crowded by people, and also by German soldiers going on patrol or circulating with military vehicles.

Urban Parks were also left without any maintenance and were frequented by people who used them as air – raid shelters.

Despite the dull atmosphere and the difficult situations, groups of architects were working for the future, collecting data about damages caused by the War, and preparing proposals.



148.A pro-royalist rally in Syntagma Square, in March 1946 (source: private collection)



149.Part of the Plan for the Reconstruction of the Capital by C. Biris, with new circulation axes and parks (source: Biris 1996)

3.2. ATHENS DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND THE POST WAR PERIOD (1946-1950)

3.2.1. General

World War II, the German Occupation, and the civil unrest had ruined the country: human losses at 8% of the population, decrease of agrarian production by 70%, waste in shipping 75%, the infrastructure destroyed almost completely (Svoronos, 1976).

In Greece since 1945, an intense political instability prevailed, with alternative parties coming to office up to 1949. In June 1946, with the "Paris Treaty " the unification of Dodecanese Islands with Greece was ensured.

A hasty and controversial referendum, permitting the return of King George (1946), also contributed to set off the Civil War. The General Headquarters of the Democratic Army (D.S.), had been established, and till 1949 battles raged throughout the province and country. The tension of the combats and the partisans' actions created problems in telecommunications and transportation of merchandise, which aggravated the economic situation.

The guerilla successes, the escalation of the Civil War, and the chance that Greece might be controlled by the Soviet Union, worried the Americans (Athens Ekdotiki, 2000).

The "Truman Doctrine" announced in March 1946, constituted the beginning of the assistance provision and also of American interventions on European matters, as the United States of America succeeded Great Britain in the role of protector of Greece (Svoronos, 1976).

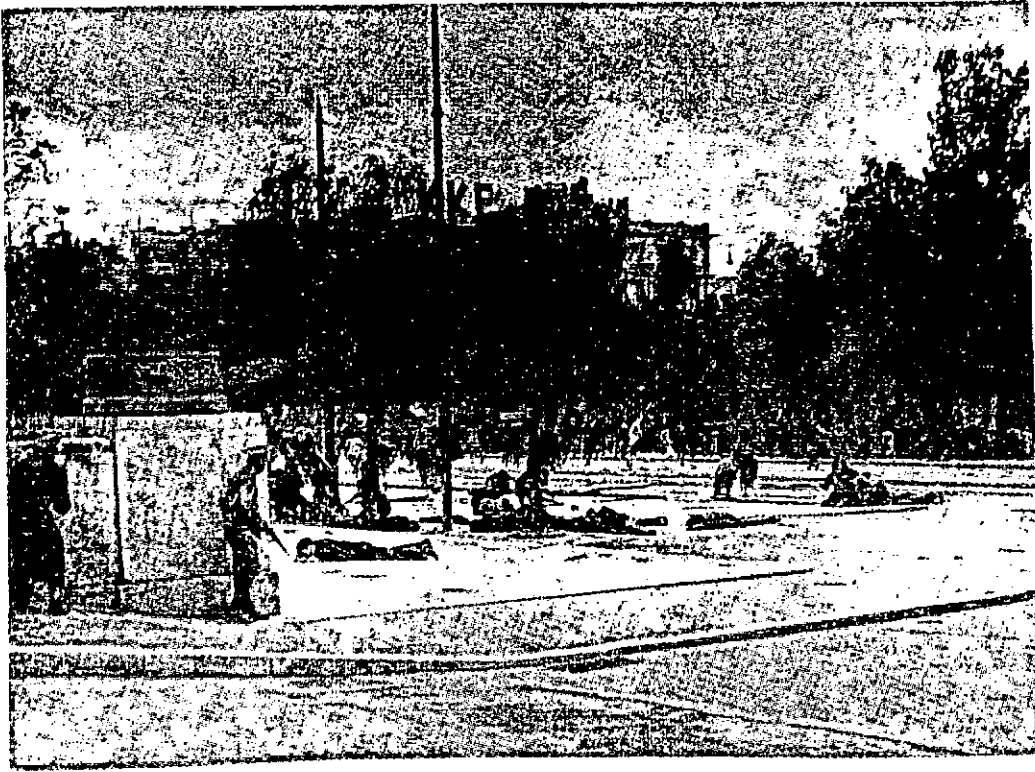
The American Assistance ("Marshall Plan") substantially contributed to a cease in hostilities, however the social consequences would last for a long time (Svoronos, 1976).

The end of the War (1944), initiated endeavours for the country's economic reconstruction and stability.

The American Assistance consisted in undertaking the country's economic policy, by the USA economic missions (UNRRA) and the supply of military and provisional aid, credits and loans.

In this way, in 1949, Greek economy and production started to reach pre-War levels.

In April 1947, King George 2nd died, and was succeeded by his brother Paul.



150. The big assembly by EAM in Syntagma Square on 3rd December 1944 (source: D. Kessel for LIFE)



151. The first shootings of the Civil War on 3rd December 1944 (source: D. Kessel for LIFE)

In 1947, C. Sofoulis was imposed through American interventions, as prime minister of a Royalist government.

In 1949, the non communist progressive powers still influenced political matters, as the situation was polarized between extremities.

The hardening of police activity, effected the disintegration of communist networks in the cities, while in the country the Democratic Army started to collapse, despite the efforts for its reorganization and tactical changes.

In February 1949, Al. Papagos was appointed chief of the Armed Forces, and the Army confined the communist guerilla war – fare to the borders.

In April, the Soviet Union requested Greek communists to end the armed struggle for general diplomatic reasons, and in June, Tito closed the Greek – Yugoslavian borders, limiting the possibility of retreat and reformation of the Democratic Army powers (Athens Ekdotiki, 2000).

On 16th October 1949, the Communist Party announced the cease fire (Tsoukalas, 1968), but the reign of terror in the country lasted over the next ten years.

The damages to the material infrastructure were already beyond measure.

When the guerilla groups were defeated in August 1949 in Grammos and Vitsi, they withdrew to Albanian territory, and requested political asylum in the countries of Eastern Europe and Soviet Union (Athens Ekdotiki, 2000).

It is estimated that about 80.000 guerillas and non combatants escaped to Eastern countries.

The “Greek Affair” had reached such an extent that it was dealt with by the United Nation’s Security Council.

In 1949, General Al. Papagos received pressure by the United States to initiate policies in opposition to the Palace.

3.2.2. The Social Structure.

The World War II and the subsequent Civil War, influenced the progress of Greek Society.

The Greek Civil War was the result of the aggravation of recent social and political conflicts, as new social powers projected revolutionary demands which, were opposed by certain bourgeois powers and opinions.



152. Guerrillas leaving Athens in 1945 (source: Kathimerini)



153. Democratic Army's guerrillas on Grammos mountain (source: ASKI Archives)

The British and later the American intervention in Greek affairs, aimed to install the regime under King George 2nd, and to reinforce bourgeois political parties, which having lost their supports, joined forces in order to control EAM'S advance.

This rift effected the dissolution of the social structure in Greece, with painful consequences, on the entire Greek Society.

The middle class which supported EAM during the Occupation, was now opposed to the eventuality of a new War and was in favour for economic stability, whilst the pre-War empowerment of the bourgeois class was again presented (Tsoukalas, 1968).

The policy of repression and prosecution, obliged thousands of people (about 700.000) to abandon their families and homes, because of the situation : Invalids of the Albanian War, Jews of Salonica, homeless guerillas of the cities, refugees from German clean-up operations and finally inhabitants from the mountainous regions, had to leave their villages, and others passed over the borders to live in the Popular (Communist) Democracies and the Soviet Union. Among them, were a great number of children (about 50.0000) that were relocated, either by the Democratic Army to Eastern countries, or by the Government's Army into "Children's Cities" that had been created (Vervenioti, 1999).

Moreover, about 300.000 people, mostly from the agrarian regions, were violently transferred by the Government Army towards other cities in order to deprive guerillas from human beings and food (Sariyannis, 2000).

The cost of the Civil War was especially painful for Greece, as during this period, according to estimations, about 80.000 people were killed, 20.000 condemned for offences against the State and 5.000 were sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

In 1945, the emigration flow had begun, that lasted until 1973. In the decade 1946-1956, 111.386 transatlantic emigrations were registered, partially caused by revenge attacks, persecutions and "loyalty certificates" (Emke – Rigopoulou, 1999).

Demographically, immigration impacted the size, structure, and distribution of the population throughout the entire country. The emigrants' remittances had been used by their families for consuming needs, without any productive investments, while the dissolution of families created severe social and psychological problems, especially to children (Emke – Rigopoulou, 1999).



154. Temporary settlement during the Civil War (source: private collection)



155. "Children's Town" in Leros, 1949 (source: private collection)

3.2.3. The spirit of the times

The panhellenic collaborations against the enemy, later gave way to lack of organization, disappointment and the National split.

The Establishment, after having stabilized its structure, attempted to legitimize its position, by establishing ideological mechanisms of the State and imposed a patriarchal and in fact, oligarchic society.

The effort of modernizing the authority's structure in order to establish a strong and effective state, failed for various internal and external reasons.

The political conflict took on a class-struggle character, (Mouzelis, 1978) while, the contribution of the masses increased, and consequently an evolution of new political practices emerged.

In December 1947, the government, with the Law 509/47 "On measures of State's security, the system of government, social regime and the protection of citizens' Liberty" outlawed the Communist Party and EAM, and Public servants with relevant connections had been dismissed (Stamatakis, 1999).

In this way, the prosecution of ideas began, which according to men in power, aimed to "overthrow the existing social system". It composed an attempt to penalize political views, without any perpetration of a criminal act.

In fact, a new National Split occurred, between two quite different systems of perception, where every effort for reconciliation became impossible, and an arbitration was reached with difficulty, following the interventions of the United States.

The bourgeois class requested the abolition of the Resistance's legal and political reality, while its heirs sought for the incorporation of vested rights in the new political framework (Kotaridis and Sideris, 1999).

In the sector of education, the problems were enormous, as thousands of elementary schools were closed down, and secondary schools lacked educators.

In a referendum of 1951, the illiteracy among children over 10 years old, was 24% (Athens, Ekdotiki, 2000).

In 1949, the "Service for the Execution of the Reconstruction Plan", created by the Ministry of Coordination, (head C. Doxiadis), assigned the study of a "Plan for the Educational Reconstruction" to E. Papanoutsos. This plan would consist a point of reference of all subsequent reforming efforts (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).



156. Civil War operation in Sperchiada, in 1948 (source: private collection)



157. Democratic Army's Soldiers in 1947 (source: private collection)

The Athens University and the National Technical University of Athens, after the War, re-opened in March 1945. Trouble also existed in this area, caused by dismissals of professors related to EAM, while the linguistic issue became again a field of ideological battles.

Since 1946, young people's desire for studies in the Universities increased, as life started to be normalized. Problems however surfaced, with the thousands of students who had been registered during the War, without any admission examinations (Biris, 1996).

The sovereign class reinstated the "cultural values of the past", in order to limit every progressive tendency for renewal (Tsoukalas, 1968).

Intellectual research during this period, mainly dealt with Greek tradition within the spirit of "Return to Roots" and the rejection of everything foreign in every aspect of civilization. Every form of Art, was searched for popular tradition and into anything which could ascertain and project its Hellenic character, contrary to foreign economic and cultural dependence. The study of folklore, was an item which attracted well known personalities as A. Hadginichali, D. Pikionis and G. Megas, on items related to the Greek traditional house and its development. The organization of an exhibition in 1950 on Greek Architecture, was the beginning of criticism and arguments on the pathways it followed, the foreign influences and the relationships with tradition (Philippidis, 1984).

In the same period, many attempts were made to create archive including drawings and various elements registered from Greek vernacular architecture, from Mount Athos etc.

In Literature, there was a transition of the general trend, towards an exaltation of collectivity and the fighting spirit: The meaning of "people" and "homeland" touched and inspired. Literature was influenced by the painful period of the Occupation and Civil War, and therefore, an ideological approach in the works was inevitable, while the public was split and suspicious (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

December 1944 acted as a catalyst, alienating the moderate persons from the "Left", but the Left Movement inspired poems that faced the situation as "heroic and mournful" (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

Some of the more significant Literary creations of this period, were,

In 1946, A. Sikelianos : Lyric Life, N. Kazantzakis : A. Zorbas, D. Hatzis : The Fire, M. Lyberaki : The straw hat.



158. Assembly in Syntagma Square, in March 1946 (source: private collection)

In 1948, N. Kazantzakis : Christ is Recrucified, P. Prevelakis : The Cretan, E. Papanoutsos : Aesthetics. Publication of the Review of Greek Creation.

In 1949, E. Papanoutsos : Ethics, N. Vrettakos : Taygetus and the Silence, G. Sarantis: Lilacs.

In Plastic Arts, there was a tense artistic activity and research. Groups were established, of artists with similarly inclined views. Such groups were "Armos" "Stathmi" "Akreoi" "Greek painters and Sculptors" etc.

A first attempt in Abstract Art was presented with a small sculpture by L. Lameris in the PanHellenic Exhibition in 1948 (Pavlopoulos, 1999).

Sculptors would follow either the Abstract Sculpture (G. Zogopoulos, Fr. Eftimiadi, G. Sclavos, Th. Papadimitriou), or the Representative Sculpture with anthropocentric themes. (Ch. Kapralos, Ag. Makris).

New exhibition Galleries were founded, as well as the "Greek Department of International Union of Art critics", art magazines were published ("Exercise book", "Kohlis", "AngloHellenic Art Review") and reputable critics took over newspaper columns. (Athens' Ekdotiki).

The Theater was still suffering the consequences of the Civil War. The National Theater was closed down in 1944, by a governmental decision and re-opened in 1945, by groups of young actors, mainly with plays with ideological messages. Most significant was the offer of the Art Theater which, inspite of the difficulties, would create some of the best performances of its history (Kagelari, 1999).

The Cinema was entering a creative period, as from 1945 to 1950, 45 movies were filmed by various producers, the most well known of whom was F. Finos, who selected the best directors, story writers and actors.

They were movies of wide consumption, mainly with dramatic contents, supported by good and distinguished theatrical actors. In this period, the Film Library of Greece had been established and contributed decisively to Culture of the Seventh Art (Delveroudi, 1999).

The most revolutionary conception with in the established mentality emerged from Music, as an aftermath from a lecture given by M. Hadjidakis on the "rebetical" song in 1948, which contributed more than any other art form towards the evolution of popular spirit in the post – war period (Philippidis, 1984).

In Music, the "light song" was flourishing, transmitted by the radio, and records, and with large production of many composers.



159. A common effort for the reconstruction in 1945
(source: Kathimerini)



160. Weaving lessons under UNRRA's financial support in 1946
(source: Kathimerini)



161. Road construction in the countryside in 1947 (source: Kathimerini)

3.2.4. The city

The population of Athens, already increased by 400.000 inhabitants over the War, continued to increase, mostly due to the lack of a policy for country's regional development and the anticommunist persecution in the countryside.

The enormous needs in the housing sector which were impossible to be covered by the existing system of house production. This subsequently led to an elevation of arbitrary construction during the decade 1945-1955.

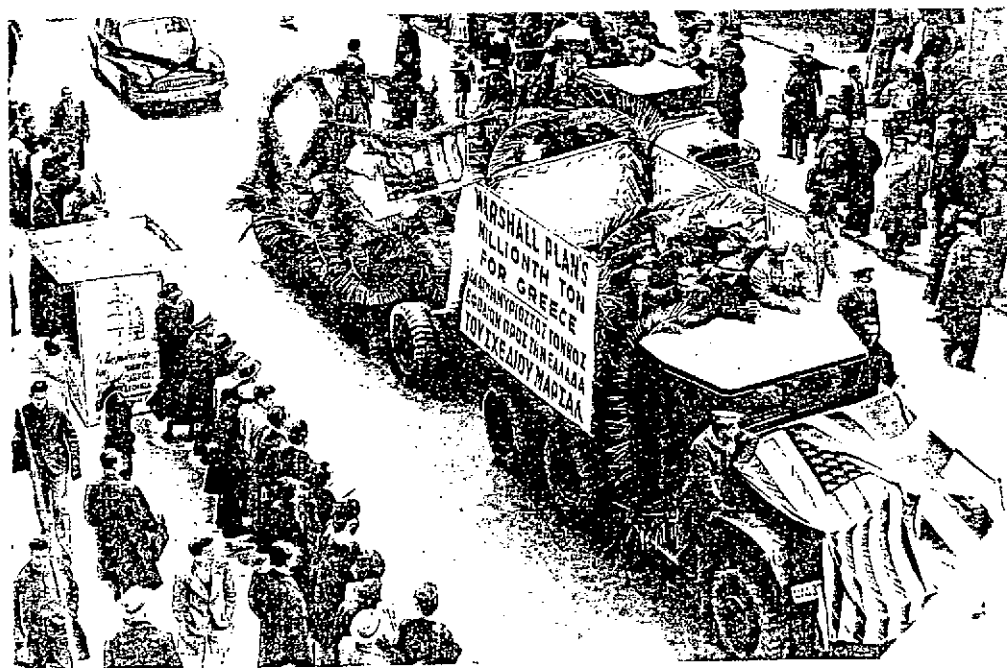
In 1946, the percentage of arbitrary buildings was 51,8% of the county's total construction activity, while in 1953, it was 44,5% (Marmaras, 1999).

C. Doxiadis was appointed, as Head of the Country's Urban Reconstruction, later on as official Deputy Minister of Reconstruction, later on as coordinator of the Reorganization Programs at the Ministry of Coordination (1948-1949) and at the Ministry of Reconstruction, and as official Deputy Minister of Coordination (1949 – 1950). By this Ministry's services, a series of studies were made for the analysis of the existing situation and the reconstruction of the destroyed settlements (Sariyannis, 2000). Until 1951 plans were made for the reconstruction of 150 rural settlements and 200.000 houses (Philippidis, 1984).

The predominant concept on the approach to country's development, was based on industrial evolution, resulting to a number of enactment for the benefit of industry, and at the expense of natural landscape and the space of the city.

Based on these, at the outskirts of Attica (50 Kms) a great number of industries were created, a fact which facilitated the concentration of population in the urban complex of the capital, which became the receiver of half of the country's population and went through an explosive increase of construction activity.

In 1946, the state of Athens after the War and the need for provisions for the city's development after the liberation, led to the "Plan for the Reconstruction of Athens", published by the Municipality of Athens. The Head of "Town Plan Service" C. Biris, was in charge of this plant which mainly proposed the development and extensions of central roads in the city center and various circulation interventions, in an integrated Plan, as a rationally organized response to new conditions. Bringing back the item of Archaeological sites and their significance for the science and also for the life of citizens, he proposed the Unification of these spaces. C. Biris, in another plan, proposed the extension of Athens towards the West (Thriasio Field). These proposals



162. The millionth ton of flour from the American Aid in the context of “Marshall Plan” in 1949 (source: private collection)



163. House bombed in Didotou street (source: Biris 1996)



164. House bombed in 3rd September street (source: Biris 1996)

were ignored by authorities as their main interest concerned the city's expansions and the building height. He also proposed the separation of Capital's administration according to American patterns.

In 1947, the Plan studied by the Ministry of Reconstruction (where the City Plan Service had been transferred) was published, in which it was obvious that the future gigantic increase of Athens was beyond the estimations forecasted by the State (Sariyannis, 2000). Indeed, until the end of 1950s, the rate of increase of construction activity doubled, and the number of cars also escalated.

In this plan, the avenue Stavrou – Elefsis was proposed for the first time.

Until 1947, there were only a few new big constructions in the center of the city, and smaller ones in the districts.

The fury of demolishing significant public and private buildings acquired substantial proportions, mostly for exploitation purposes, and in some cases for the creation of Public spaces, such as squares (Varvakion School's in Athinas street), or parks (building of the Cavalry barracks in the Mars' Field).

Although the conditions of this period, with a great number of buildings demolished, offered opportunities for public acquisition of areas destroyed by bombings, in order to reform the Town Plan and make a rational organization of the city in sight of future needs, the problem was restricted to smaller matters such as the imposition of arcades along central streets of the city, such as Eolou, Evripidou, Athinas and Patission (Biris, 1996).

The number of cars started to increase and consequently the first circulation problems appeared. However the relevant Services ignored the suggestion of widening the streets, despite the proposals made by the Municipality of Athens (Biris, 1996).

3.2.5. The Public Spaces

As the psychology of the Athenians changed and the hopes for a better future increased, the tendency for amusement filled the recreation centers. Athens lived in an atmosphere of eudaemonist, while the rest of Greece still lived through a nightmare with the Civil War raging in the country. Theaters, Cinema, Karagiozis (Shadow theater), varieties, pastry shops, taverns, night clubs, were filled to their capacity.



165. Map showing the city's expansions from 1930 until 1950 (source: Biris 1996)

In Syntagma square, one of the new centers had been inaugurated, the Papaspyrou pastry shop, the open space of which, would be a central recreation attraction for many years in the city center.

The Parks of Athens (Mars' Field, Philopappou, Zappion, Royal Garden etc) were very popular and always filled with people, while Zappion and the Tennis Club were used both for athletic and social events.

Ambelokipi had a lot of greenery and still was a low density residential area, an oasis for the summer. In 1947, Thon's villa with its picturesque towers and lines of trees destroyed by bombing during the War, was demolished, in order to give space for new commercial constructions (Kerophylas, 1988).

In January 1947, the replantation of the natural environment around Athens started, as Athens had lost its woods in order to provide combustible materials for heating.

Omonia in this period was "the omphalos of the capital", gathering a lot of people with its shops, coffee shops, bus terminals, and relevant heavy circulation of automobiles (Kerophylas, 1988).

After the War, changes were noticed in morals related to Public Spaces.

Significant Public Spaces such as Mars' Field and the garden in front of the Archeological Museum were spoiled, as coffee shops, pastry shops, refreshment centers etc, were constructed on them. There was also a permanent danger for construction of open theaters, cinemas and lavatories, in the area of Open Public Spaces' areas (Biris, 1958).

Similar problems existed in the National Garden and in archaeological sites, like the area of the Olympian Zeus Temple, where the Municipal Council approved the space allotment for the extension of the Tennis Club.

Already since the decade of the '30s, the plan was promoted for the exposure of the ancient heritage around Aeropolis and mainly the space of the Ancient Agora, the center of public space in Ancient Athens.

After the War, the demolitions of houses began in the quarter called "Vlassarou", which covered the western side of Philopappou Hill, on top of the area of the ancient city. Excavations were conducted by the American School of Classical Studies.

In 1946, after a working period of twelve years, the whole topography of the space and ruins of the ancient buildings were exposed, and the entire project was completed in 1956 (Biris, 1996), including the restoration of the Attalus Arcade.



166. Houses on Aeropagus street, demolished for the Athenian Agora excavations
(source: Travlos 1993)



167. Part of the Archaeological space of Ancient Agora after the excavations (source: author's photograph)

The space of ancient Platos' Academy was expropriated and partly investigated, but the expropriation and exposure of the "Public Sign", i.e. the axis connecting Keramikos with the Academy, is still not feasible (Papageorgiou – Venetas, 1996).

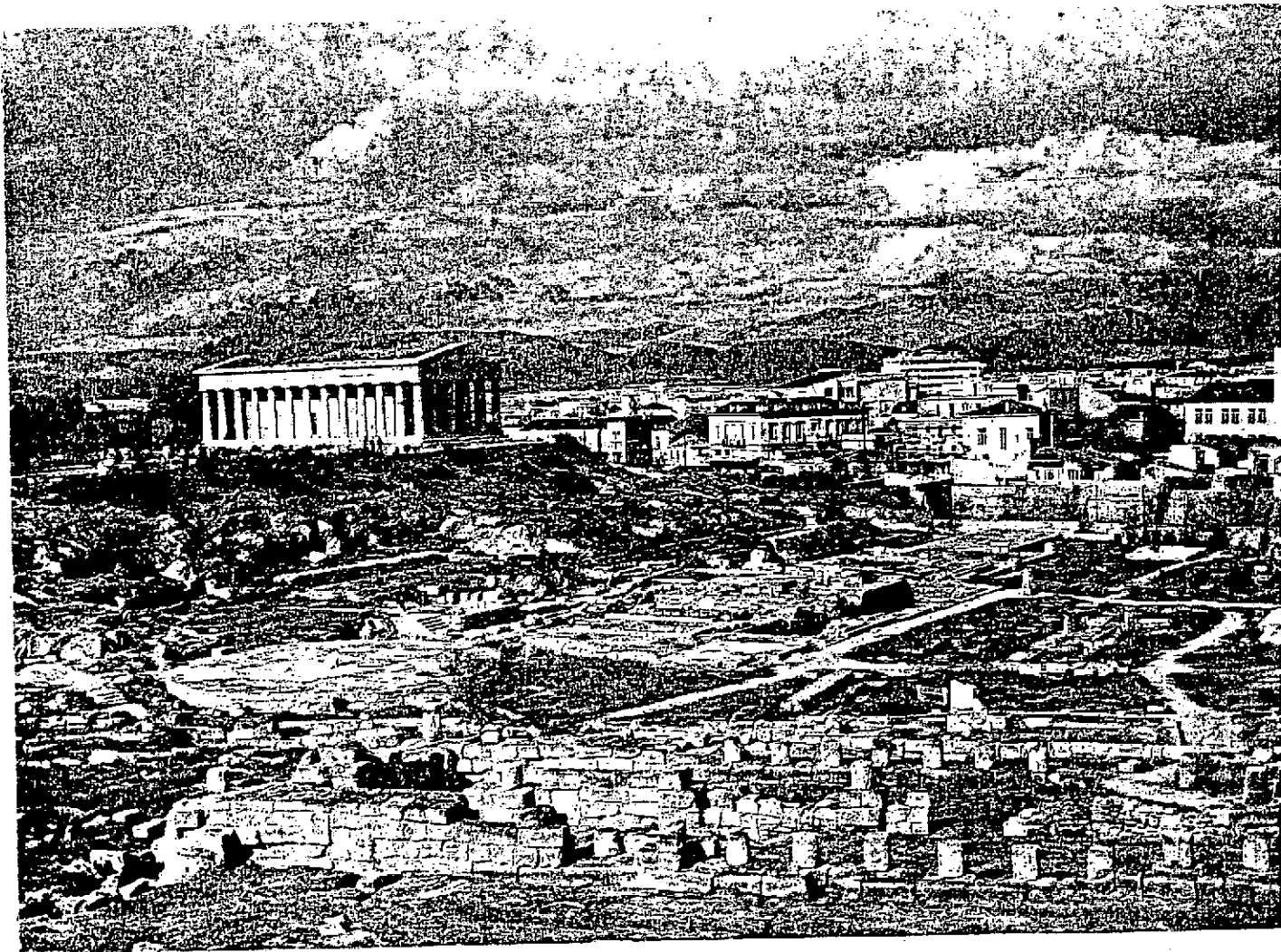
The extended excavations in the Ancient Agora, Keramikos and Academy, re-surfaced the proposal for the unification of the archaeological sites and their incorporation into the city's Urban Plan.

Reviewing the above during this period, we come to a conclusion that Architects' visions and attempts for a better city's environment in Athens, were cancelled by the irregular political situation and the lack of Regional policy and Town Planning. During this period, the political situation had negative consequences on city's Open Public Spaces.

At the end of the period, the State's interest was mainly in restoring the damages caused by the World War II and the Civil War.



168. Excavations in the Ancient Agora (source: Kathimerini)



169. View of the excavations from Aeropagus Hill (source: Biris 1996)

3.3. ATHENS DURING THE DECADE 1950 – 1960

The Period of economic development

3.3.1. General

At the beginning of the 1950s, Greece was split and destroyed by a series of war operations, which lasted from 1940 to 1949, i.e. double the time than in the rest Europe.

This period was characterized by the efforts for the economy's reconstruction and development, which implied the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure the facilitation of necessary supplies i.e. operation of productive units and the compensation of a healthy political life. Compared to the 1930s, this period appeared to be a period of decay and uncertainty.

Nonetheless, 17.000 political refugees still existed, as well as 13.000 exiled in Makronissos, Yaros, Ag. Efstratios, while the divisions caused by the Civil War were still obvious (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

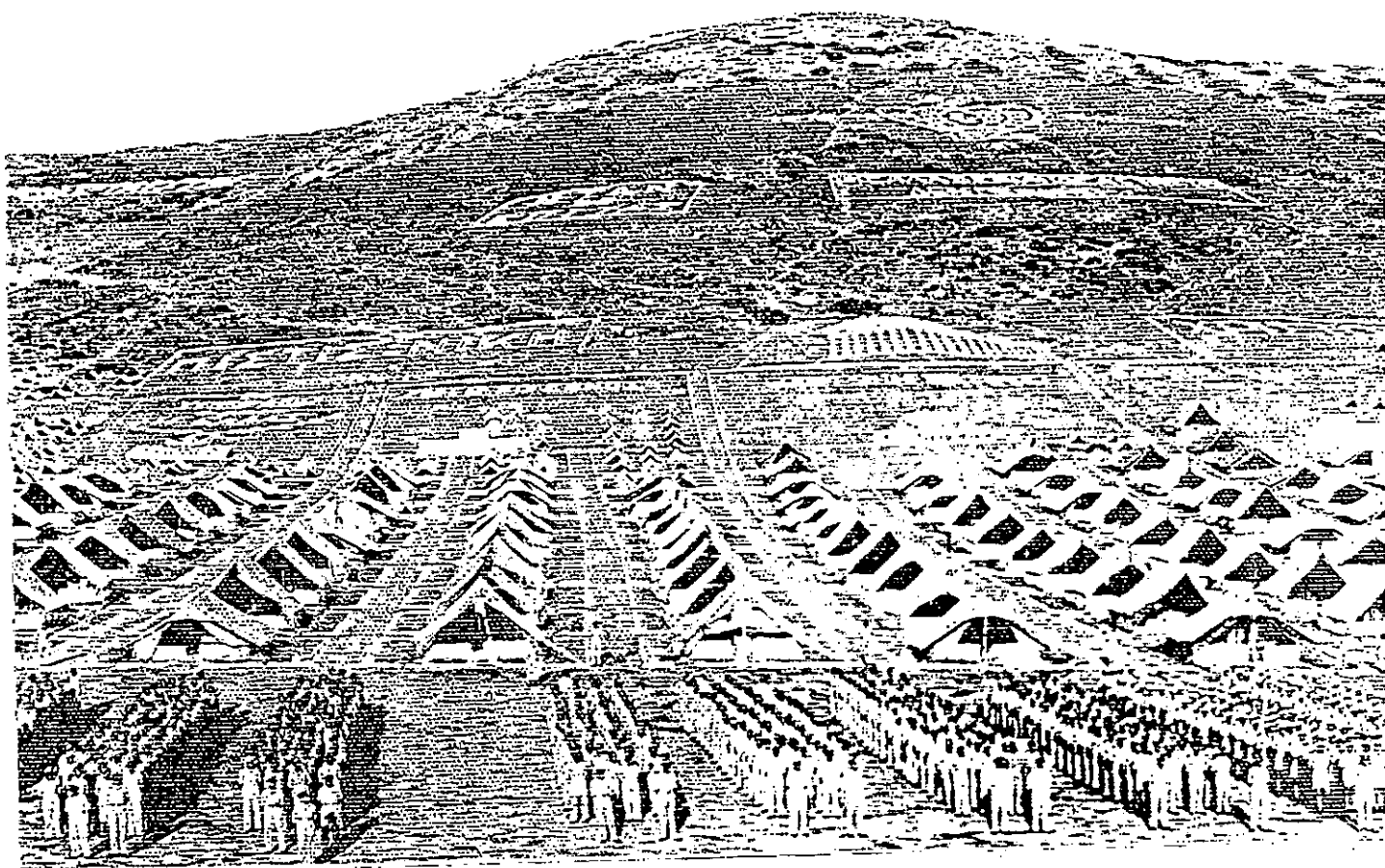
However, in parallel to the official State's function, the autonomous activity of executive authorities increased, with "administrative displacement", legislated controls of loyalty, Court – Martial (arrest of N. Beloyannis and N. Ploubidis and their death sentence, public trial of the Air Force, sentences for espionage etc).

At the same time, the gendarmerie and the TEA participated in terrorist operations throughout the country (Tsoukalas, 1968). The Communist Party, was still outlawed and the 80.000 refugees in Eastern countries were not allowed to return.

In February 1950, the martial law was abrogated, and names of detainees who were dismissed from concentration camps started to be published.

In political affairs, there were intense political activities among the parties, and frequent successions of governments, under the regime of Royal Democracy, with interventions by the Throne and the American factor, which would lead to the Conservative's rule that lasted for a period of ten years, starting with Al. Papagos (Greek Rally) who came into power in 1952 and continuing with C. Karamanlis in 1955 (National Radical Union).

In the economic sector, the Government proceeded to a significant devaluation (100%) of the drachma (April 1953), which was determinative for the economic development, as it caused the evolution of industrial and agrarian production (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).



170. Makronissos in June 1948, with political banished citizens' settlements (source: private collection)

The reformation which started with considerable amounts of American Financial Assistance and mass admission of foreign private capital (1953), had relevant obligations, which consequently transformed the economy into a colonial type, with parasitical phenomena, which mainly appeared in Athens (Svoronos, 1976).

The industry did not develop properly. Agriculture, which remained the most important sector of economy, despite the measures taken, had not been modernized, while the tertiary sector, has been excessively inflated and became the most prosperous field (Svoronos, 1976).

For the above reasons, the per capita income increased impressively, causing the relevant amelioration of the living standards : from 80 dollars per capita before the War, to 112 in 1951, 270 in 1956 and 500 in 1964.

Two fields which had considerable development were Tourism and Shipping : The number of tourists reached 500.000 per year up to 1961 (compared to 100.000 before the War) and 2.000.000 until the end of the '60s, whilst, the merchant fleet became one of the most significant Shipping power until 1970.

In February 1952, Greece jointed NATO, a fact which was accepted with enthusiasm by all political wings (except for the Left which emphatically criticized this move). This response stemmed from the certainty that this embodiment with the western defense mechanisms would dissuasively operate in a possible communist attempt to overthrow the government.

This fact could be easily explained in context with the whole climate of Greece's dependence on the USA.

In this period, except for the Parliament, the real centers of power were the Army, the Palace, a small circle of political and public employees, and certain bankers, industrialists and ship owners (Tsoukalas, 1968).

In 1952, the New Hellenic Constitution was voted, having a distinct authoritarian character, as it provided among others, prohibition of the right to strike, restrictions on the Press freedom and offered a majority of increased competences to the King (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

The Cyprus affair i.e. the item of the liberation of Cyprus from England's colonial regime and its unification with Greece, was again brought up. Due to its acute nature, it became a National affair, and would be henceforth, a basic item in political evolutions (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000), with many demonstrations and riots organized in Athens.

In 1955, EOKA started an armed guerilla struggle in Cyprus, resulting in the death of a number of Cypriot fighters. The conflicts lasted until 1959, when the Agreements of Zurich and London were signed.

In 1954, violent clashes broke out in Constantinople against the Greeks living there, whose properties were destroyed and looted.

In October 1955, Al. Papagos died, and the King immediately assigned C. Karamanlis to form a new government.

C. Karamanlis founded ERE, (National Radical Union) and won the elections of February 1956. This government would be overthrown in 1958, but ERE would win the elections again.

A basic lever of the political conservative rule, had been the control of the state's operation, which did not only consider its ideological and repressive side, but also the economic and social field (Nicolacopoulos, 1999).

In the meanwhile, the economic conditions were very hard, and some goods and foods were still delivered with ration coupons even in 1952, while the military expenses absorbed the 45% of the State budget (Athens' Ekdotiki 2000).

The need for economic stabilization led to a number of State interventions, supported by the American Assistance and an inflow of foreign capital (1958) : Foundation of productive units and Public Utility Services, favorable terms for the establishment of industries, (Sugar, Phosphoric fertilizers, ESSO Pappas Refinery, Pechiney Aluminium etc), foundation of Public Organizations (DEH electricity, OTE telecommunications) organization of the Greek Tourism development (EOT), and others.

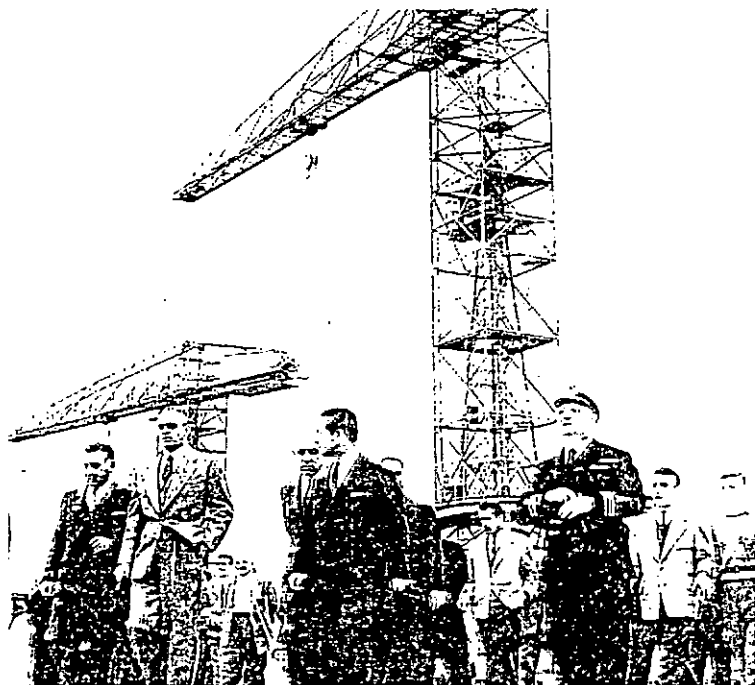
The productive process was often developed at the expense of the natural or public environment (arbitrary construction, trespass of Public Land, deficiency in assisting the developing urban centers etc) (Demathas, 1999).

At the beginning of this period, the structure of the economy was characterized by the domination of the agrarian sector and its low productivity (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

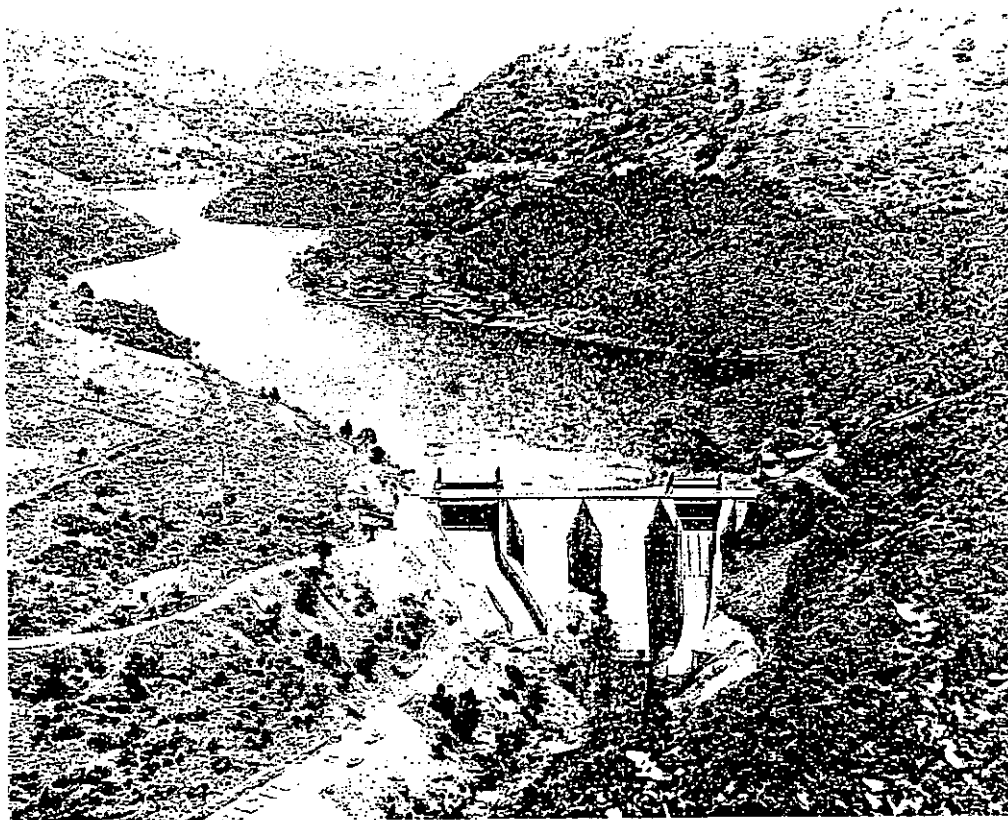
However, the situation was significantly improved with the extension of cultivated surfaces with land reclamation works.

After the stabilization and the liberalization of 1952-53, economic activities constantly expanded and the per capita income increased (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

The dominant influence of the economic element implied that the ideology of the ruling class was becoming more "economy-based", with emphasis on economic



173. Inauguration of "Greek Shipyards" in 1957 (source: Kathimerini)



174. The Hydroelectric work in Ladonas river, a significant public work for electricity production in the '50s (source: Kathimerini)

development, “free business” and the elevation of anticommunism as a national credo (Mouzelis, 1978). The strategy of the capital, in relation to Athenian development, was to control the final decisions and direct the economic organization of the country according to its own stipulations, by collecting in Athens the main activity organization and high level production, and by transferring heavy industry to its regions (Burgel, 1976).

This “liberal” tendency led to the attraction of foreign capital for the country’s further industrialization and efforts turned towards the production of capital goods.

Construction enterprises and commerce, yielded more profit than industry and provided more certainty, a fact which led to an impressive increase of constructions, providing a solution to the housing and simultaneously to the unemployment problem.

On the contrary, the industry was not updated with the application of new technology, due to the limited market and the lack of material and legislative infrastructure. The turn towards the country’s industrialization began at the end of ‘50s.

The opening of Greek economy to foreign capital, was validated in 1953 by a law, which offered foreign capitalists special tax exemptions and other subsidies (Tsoukalas, 1968).

This was the period of intense emigration of Greeks in search of employment abroad (Australia, America, West Germany etc).

Another field of great economic importance, was Shipping which became the 3rd international power.

Greece was also economically dependant on concealed resources, which increased, as the emigrants’ remittances were added to the income from Shipping and Tourism.

3.3.2. The Social Structure.

Until the end of the ‘50s, despite the growth rates and the capitalistic approach to production, Greece still presented some standard characteristics of underdevelopment: Low agrarian produce, inflated services’ sector and an industrial sector which was unable to absorb the work force (Mouzelis, 1978).

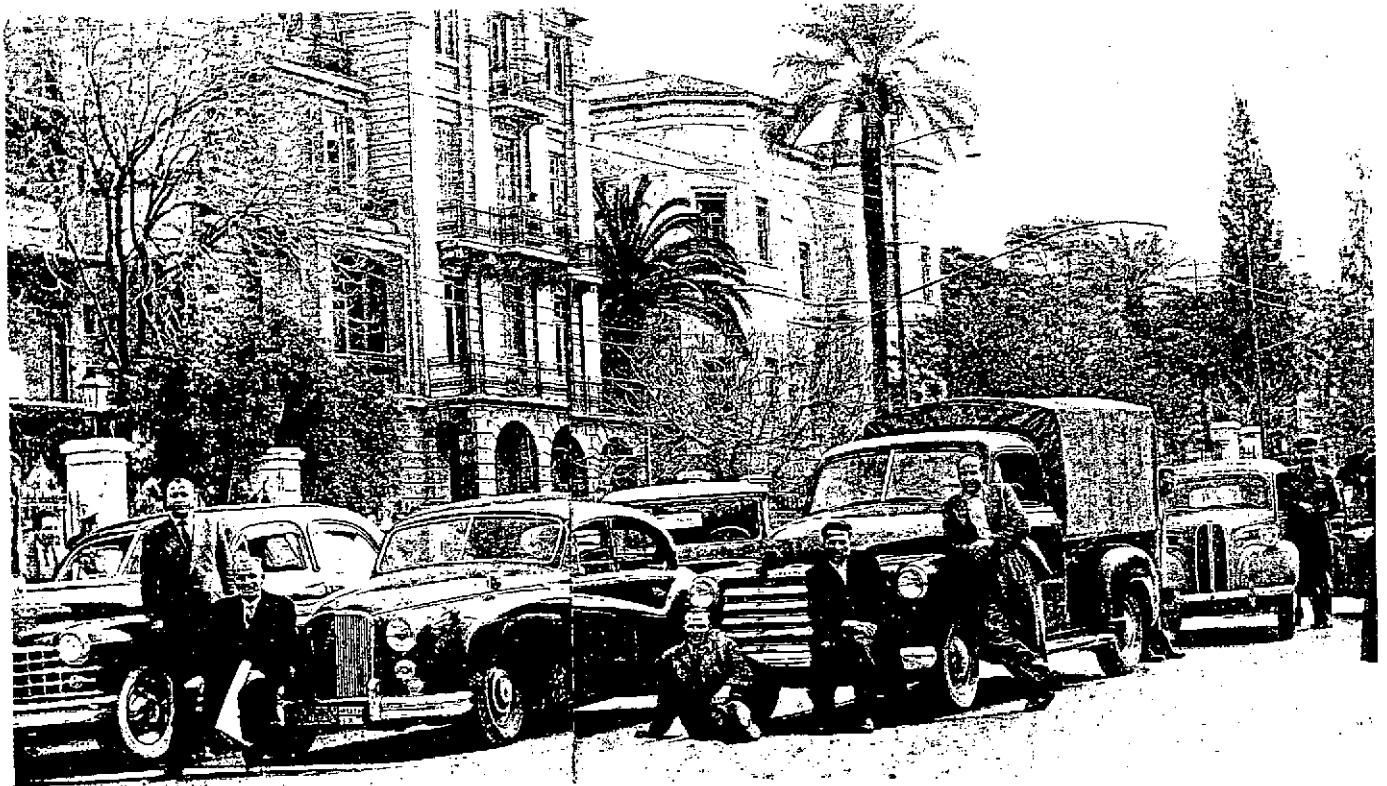
During this period of economic recovery, new bourgeois classes which had been elevated by making their money in the ‘40s and pursued to economically, socially and



175. In search of work in the 1950 (source: Kathimerini)



176. Professions on the road (source: Kathimerini)



177. A strike day for Cyprus, in February 1957 (source: United Photoreporters)

politically control the "Reconstruction" and "Development" were the motive and power supporting the Hellenic Rally and ERE (Nicolacopoulos, 1999). Since 1950, the State's role in the process of the Country's reconstruction was determinative, which through authoritarian political choices, stabilized a polarization and hindered the real modernization of society (Nicolaidou, 1993).

At the same time, there was a great part of the population which suffered from poverty, distress, social injustice, police interrogations and the prosecutions of the left.

These reasons, along with the structural problems of the agrarian sector, the parasitic intermediates, the State's neglect of fishery and cattle raising, explained the emigration and the rush to the cities and mainly to Athens, in search of work. Besides, until 1960, overseas emigration absorbed the majority of the emigrants who, in this period used to leave behind their families.

Between 1955 and 1977, according to emigration registers, 1.236.290 people emigrated (Emke – Rigopoulou).

In the period 1950-1960, a great increase of urban population, was noted : According to a referendum in 1951, urban population consisted 37,7% of the total country's population, while in 1961 it reached 43%, and the agrarian 44%.

Between 1956 and 1961, the population of Athens increased by 220.000 people, from which the 66% came from rural regions and were absorbed by the city's working class and the remaining by the pre-War middle class (Tsoukalas 1968).

At the end of 1950, more than 50% of the work force was employed in agriculture, while industry represented the 25% of the Gross National Product (Mouzelis, 1978). The agrarian population had undergone radical changes, with cultural exchanges between country and city. The way of life of the industrial society however, was also publically promoted through the cinema, tourism, etc.

In Athens, many changes in manners and customs were noticed, which affected the family environment. These changes were related to the new life in apartment buildings, struggle for shelter, and the pursuit in attaining a position as an employee in the Public Services, for a stable livelihood. This model destroyed the urban fabric and the human relations in the courts, streets, as well as contact with the nature. By the increased density of residential areas, the neighborhood relationships were destroyed, as newcomers did not know each other, and the streets were not safe for children play, due to the increased circulation of the cars.



178. The decade of the 1950s had been very productive in the Civilization field, with publications of Literary and Art magazines (source: private collection)

During this period, the greatest emigration from the country to the capital was recorded and this fact contributed to the change of the city, and the constitution of the city's population.

The fact that led to significant changes both in social structure and city's environment was the application of "Antiparochi" system. According to that, the owner of an old, usually small, house offered his building plot to a building contractor for the construction of an apartment building, taking in exchange some of the new apartments.

The application of the "Antiparochi" (Exchange) system created a large new lower and middle class, of prosperous people : Land owners, contract - builders subcontractors, tradesmen and artisans, all of which profited from the apartment construction.

3.3.3. The spirit of the times

The decade of the '50s started with hopes for a better life, tranquility and peacefulness, despite the fears and concerns that still existed.

This period, was a time of Social and Economic stability, with a predominant Conservative approach.

The first period after the Civil War, until 1960, was characterized by the emphasis on economic development, the entrepreneurial freedom and a polarization between the conservative ideology and the left, which was expressed in all fields. The government in Power, after having stabilized its structure, attempted legislative procedures, by establishing the State's ideological mechanisms.

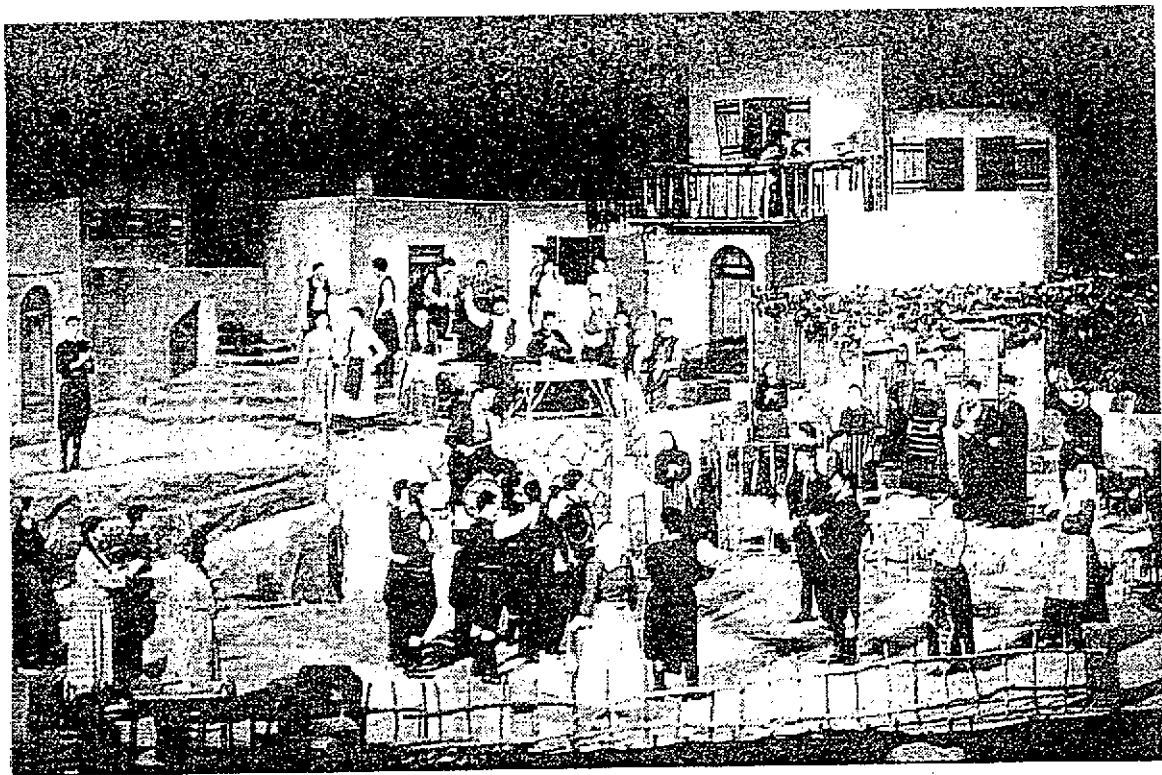
Influenced by the political climate, the spirit of the times was initially expressed by the terms "reconstruction" and laterly by "development".

The support of the free economy which had evolved, could be connected to the economic reflection of dogmatic anticommunism (Tsoukalas, 1968).

Besides, the consequences of governmental policy, which were directly dependant on foreign influences and in the service of oligarchy, were obvious (Svoronos, 1976).



179. Inauguration performance of Epidavros Festival, in 1954 (source: Kathimerini)



180. Theater began to develop in the '50s (source: Kathimerini)

Within the climate of questioning of the direction of Greek economy and development, a study was composed in 1951 by professor K. Varvaressos, and accepted by the Prime Minister N. Plastiras.

The estimations of this study were severely criticized by reliable economic circles. The study started with the phrase: "*Greece is, and will remain a country with limited possibilities, i.e., a poor country*".

Among others, the study considered building construction as a milestone in the country's development.

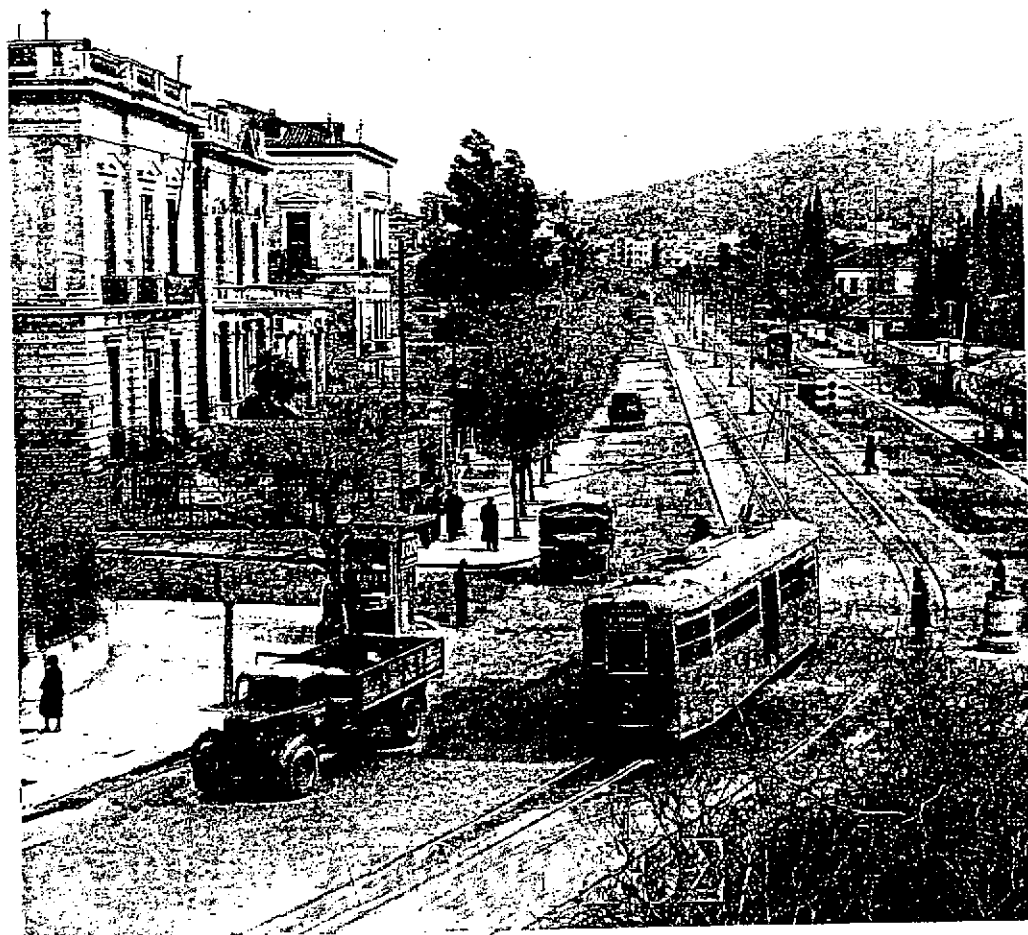
When Al. Papagos came into power (1952), the main directions of this study were followed and, nonetheless consisted a guidance line for subsequent governments (Sariyannis, 2000).

In Literature, the first decades after the War were dominated by authors who had fully embraced the renewal and modernization of the literary field, and thus gained their reputation (Athen's Ekdotiki, 2000).

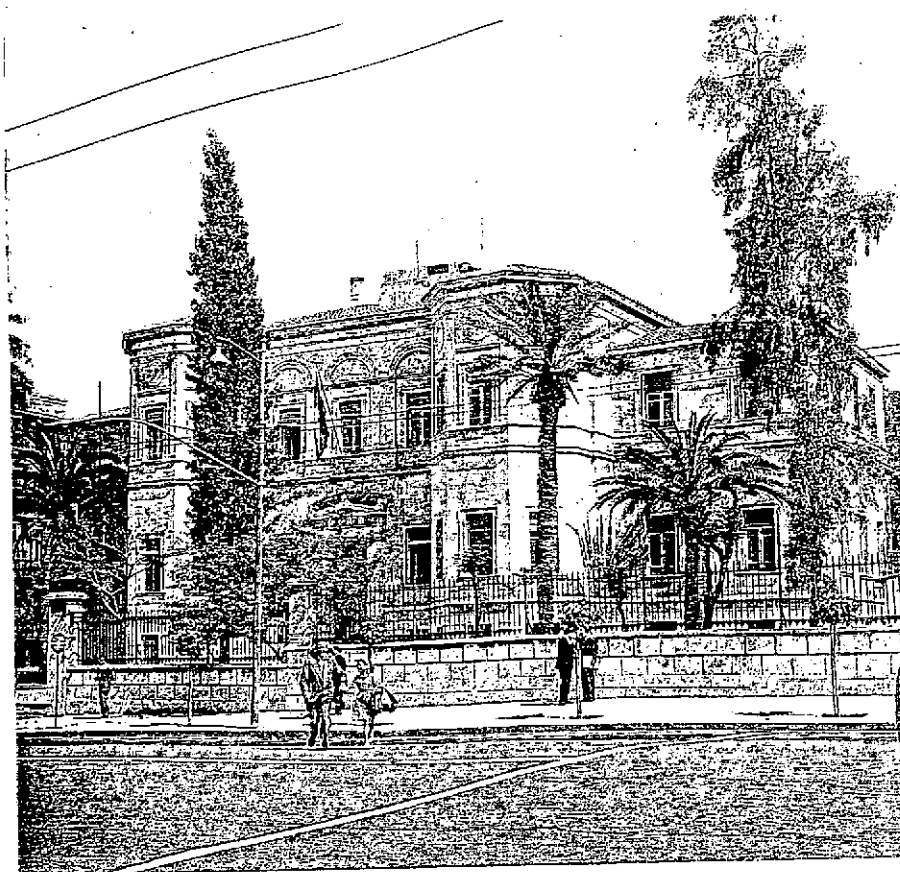
Distinguished authors, (El. Venezis, E. Papanoutsos, A. Terzakis, K. T. Dimaras, I.M. Panagiotopoulos,) were collaborating with reliable newspapers in columns and articles, offering quality in the everyday information of the citizens.

Some of the most significant literary works of this period were :

- 1950, R. Apostolidis: Pyramid 1967, N. Pentzikis : Object Knowledge
- 1951, K. Hatziargyri: The Legend of Constantis.
- 1952, N. Kasdagli: Spiliades, K. Dimoula Poems, St. Tatsopoulou : The Black Earth.
- 1953, N. Kazantzakis: Captain Michalis, M. Katsaros : Against Sadducees, A.Terzakis: Theophano.
- 1954, A. Empirikos: Inland.
- 1955, N. Kazantzakis: The last Temptation, Sp. Plaskovitis : The Storm and the lantern, R. Roufos : March in the darkness.
- 1956, J. Ritsos: The Moonlight sonata, M. Loudemis: The cherry trees will blossom this year, M. Anagnostakis: Continuity 2.
- 1957, S. Tsirkas: Nourentin Boda, N. Vrettakos: Time and the River.
- 1958, K. Dimoulas: In Absentia, N. Bakolas: Don't cry.
- 1959, Od. Elytis: Axion Esti, Al. Kotzias: The Devil.



181. Vassilissis Sophias street with trams in 1953 (source: private collection)



182. One of the splendid mansions on Vassilissis Sophias street, which were demolished in order to be replaced by apartment buildings in 1958 (source: Benaki Museum)

In the field of Education, a committee of specialists was founded, in order to evaluate the educational problems. Its findings were that *“Education, which is the most positive and productive investment, must remain humanitarian and classical”* (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

In the area of Higher Education, in 1959 the “School for Officials of Professional and Technical Education”, (SELETE), was founded, aiming to organize the chaotic area of Professional Education.

In the field of Music, the “popular” song was blossoming with a great production of songs which expressed the people’s tribulations throughout a difficult period.

Many significant composers (Hatzichristos, Tsitsanis, Hiotis, Mitsakis, Papaioannou) and interpreters (Kazantzidis, Bithikotsis, Gavalas, Bellou, Ninou, Linda and others), produced significant creations, which were recorded in mass production (Geramanis, 1999).

In the mid ‘50s, two great creators of Greek music appeared, M. Hatzidakis and M. Theodorakis, and traced new and decisive ways for the country’s cultural development.

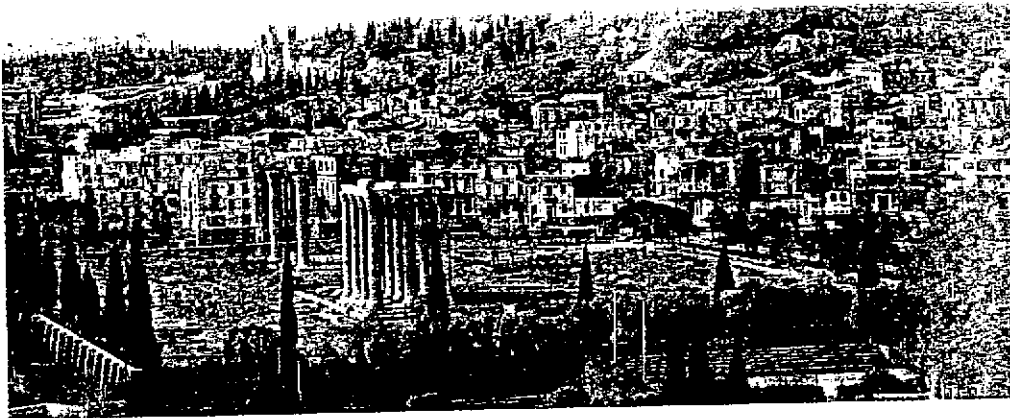
The country’s cultural events started to have international influence, with the establishment of the Athens Festival in 1955, the Epidavros Festival in 1956, and the invitation of a number of well known foreign artists (such as D. Mitropoulos, M. Callas, G. Bahauer) (Dondas, 1999).

In the area of Dance, the creation of the “Greek Ballet” by R. Manou, was significant, as she managed to achieve a collaboration of the most distinguished Greek artists, painters and musicians, in a series of successful attempts in search of the Greek style and the renewal of the musical scene (M. Hatzidakis, M. Theodorakis, A. Kounadis, N. Scalkotas, N. Hadjikyriakos – Ghika, S. Vassiliou, N. Nicolaou, M. Argyrakis) (Rikakis, 1999).

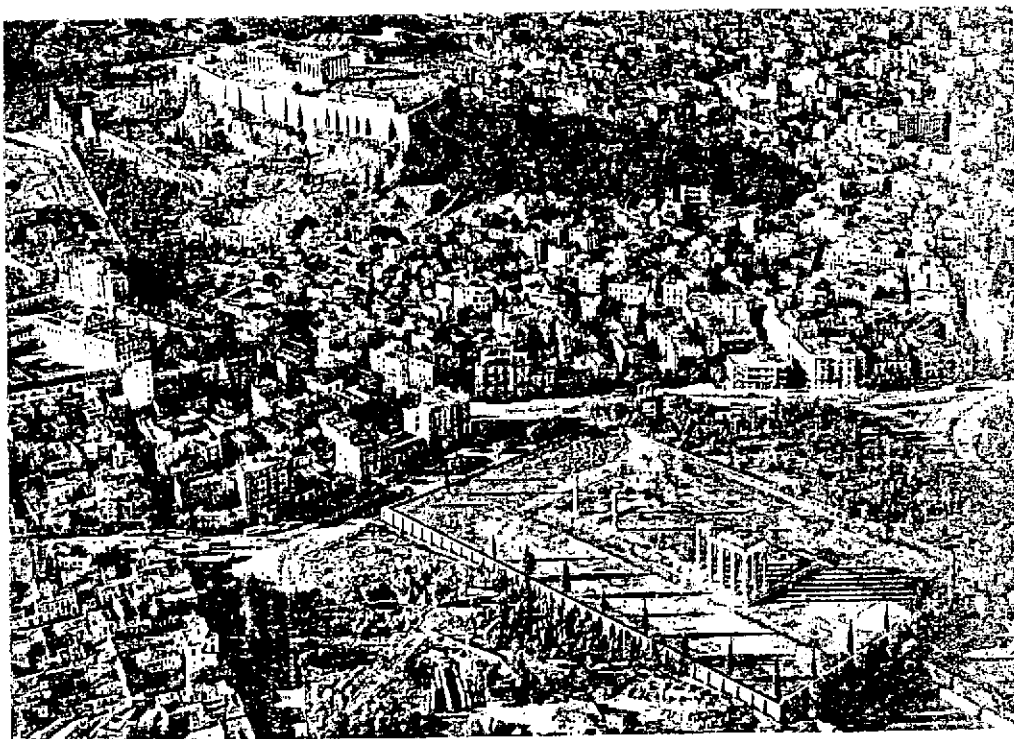
An important event for the search and study of Greek tradition, was the establishment of the group named “Greek Dances” by D. Stratou, with significant recordings, studies and performances with a very large repertoire of Greek dances and original costumes.

Since 1950, in the field of Fine Arts, under the influence of the Abstract Art, a new manner of expression started to emerge with a different language in comparison to previous periods.

The tone of Greek Art was lowered towards the familiar, popular and quotidian.



183. The Olympian Zeus' Temple area in 1955 (source: Travlos 1993)



184. Aerial view of the Acropolis, Plaka, Olympian Zeus' Temple and adjacent areas of old city structure in 1955 (source: Travlos 1993)

Two perceptions were developed: the public perception (N. Hadjikyriakos – Ghykas, N. Egonopoulos), in which the thematics, morphology, and symbolic values corresponded to the search of national self – knowledge, and the private perception (N. Nicolaou, As. Asteriadis, S. Vassiliou) with thematics which provided aesthetics to familiar issues, in a period when the microcosm of the neighborhood and the private houses still existed, before the construction of high apartment buildings would sweep them away (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

In Fine Arts, there was an international expansion, opening and promotion in Greek Art, with exhibitions of foreign artists, such as H. Moore (1951) and participations of Greek artists in the Biennale of Venice, (N. Egonopoulos, G. Gounaropoulos, J. Moralis, J. Tsarouchis), in the Biennale of Alexandria, (V. Katraki) international prizes won by Greek artists, such as G. Bouzianis, and G. Gounaropoulos (Guggenheim prizes 1956,1958).

New Art Galleries were founded, as for example Zygos, Armos, New Forms, Iliadis, Kouros, etc, and a new art magazine the "Art Review" was published, another significant progress in this period.

In the Theatre, there was a critical attitude towards the reassessment of the Theater's role as component of civilization.

New theatrical groups were created, that rejected the traditional function of the companies based on leading actors, and attempted to approach a non traditional public with a new spirit, in plays, as well as in the theatrical practice (Mavromoustakos, 1999).

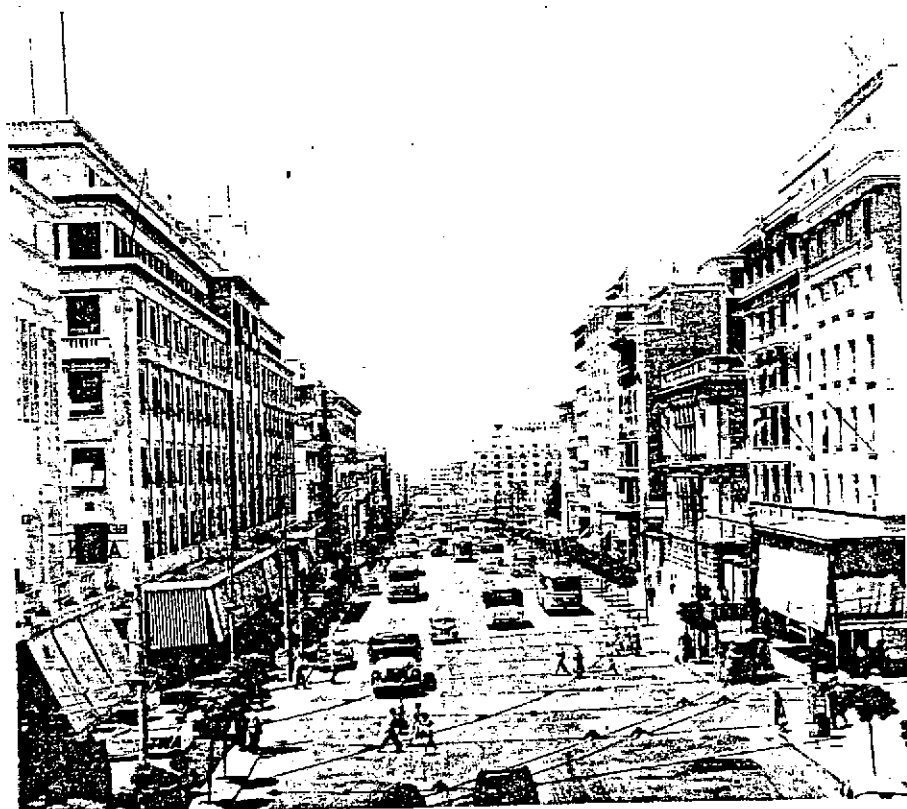
The National Theater operated, based on west European patterns, with high – calibre administrative personnel that dealt with its artistic potential.

Of great significance to the Theater, was the accommodation of the Art Theater in the underground space of the Orpheus Arcade, with presentations of American and European dramatists, but also of Greek playwrights, and innovative approaches to ancient Greek drama.

At the same time in other Athenian Theaters, Greek comedy succeeded, while the revue and prose were extremely popular.

The Cinema was also evolving, following a continuous and progressive course.

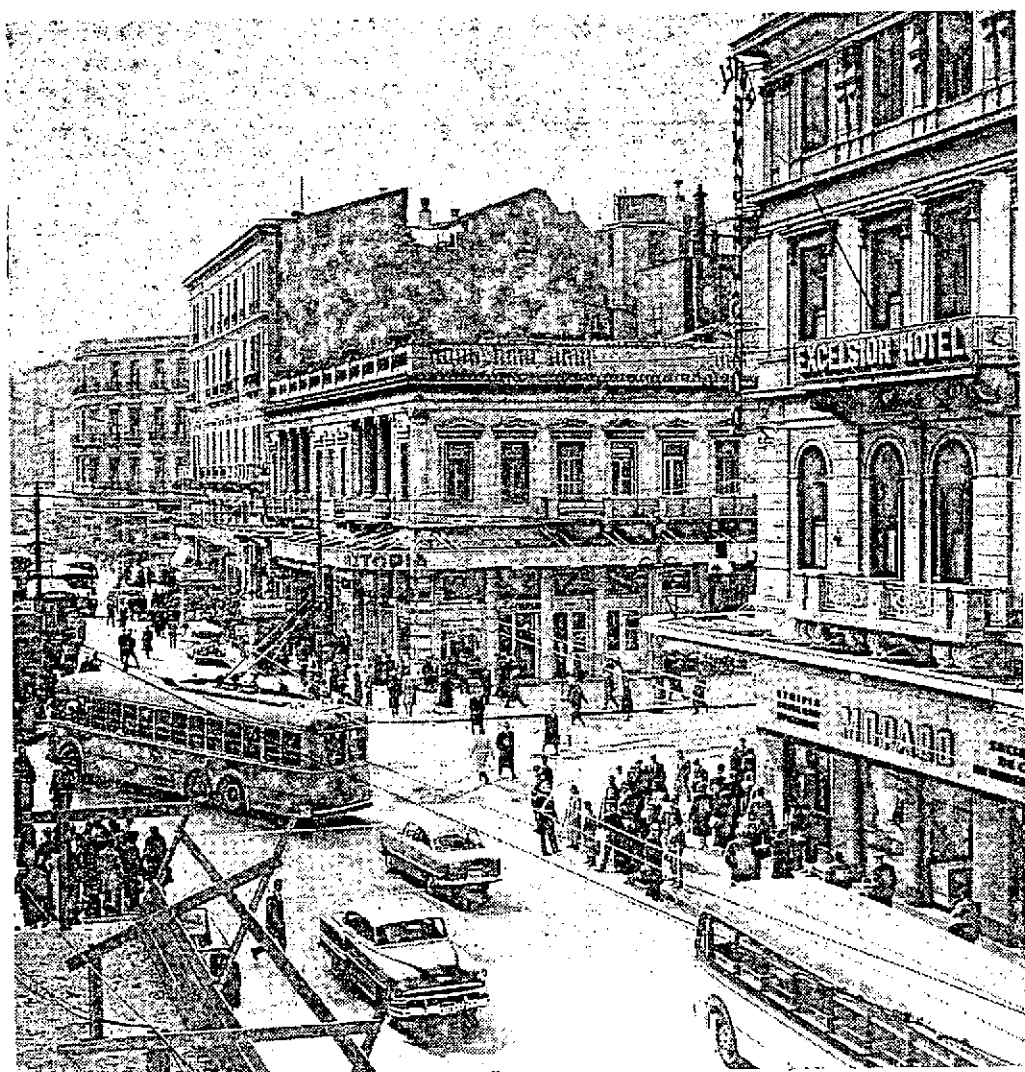
The Movies projected messages of optimism, despite the difficult daily reality, including moral elements, borrowing ideas and leading actors from the theater, but



185. Panepistimiou street in 1957 (source: National Gallery)



186. A traffic arranging policeman in 1953
(source: author's collection)



187. Patisson and Panepistimiou crossing in 1957, with Neoclassical buildings still existing

(source: private collection)

also offering light comedies for entertainment, as the Greek society made its first steps towards consumption (Delveroudi, 1999).

In the field of Architecture, in 1955 the Department of Architecture of the Polytechnic School of Salonica University was founded, which composed the second pole of the architectural and Urban Planning Studies in Greece.

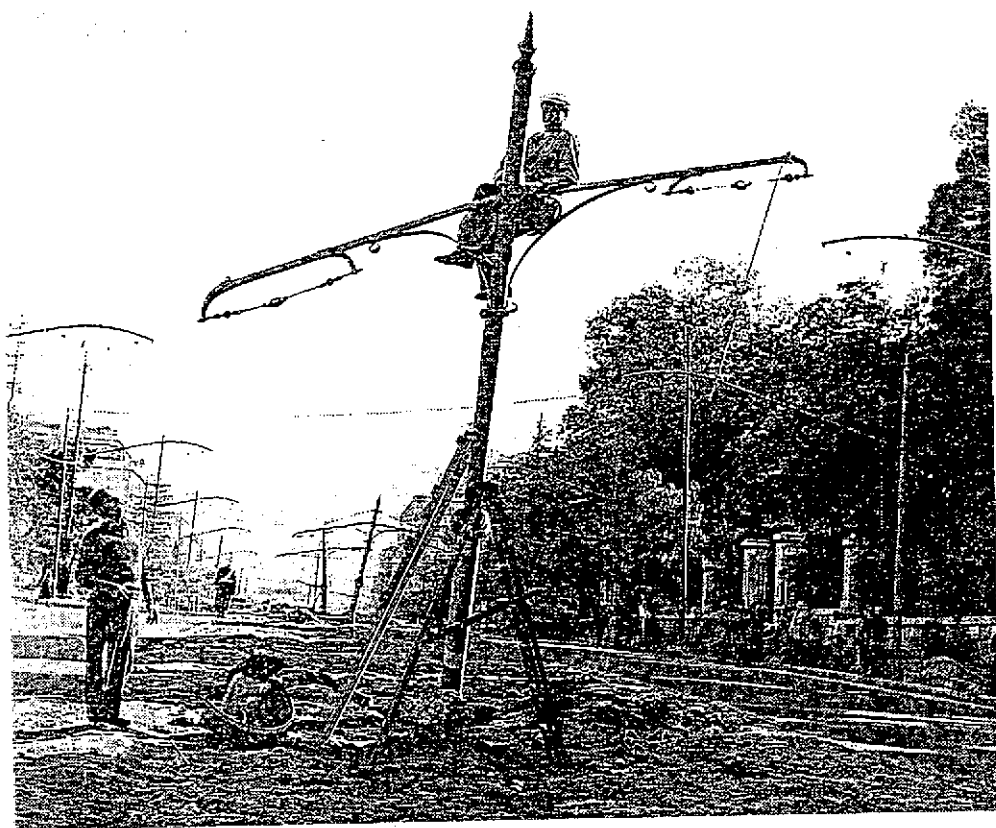
Since 1960, in the Architectural Congresses, the investigation on Architecture and Urban Planning, Modernization, and Technology, was collectively passed to architects.

The intellectual life was again diversely influenced. On the one hand, there was an invasion of foreign patterns, which, without any criticism, displaced tradition from the urban centers, while on the other, a tendency again appeared towards Greek tradition as a “source of truth”, for the realization of national identity, in architecture and other arts, and in the study of folklore. (A. Constantinidis, D. Pikionis, A. Hatzimichali, G. Megas).

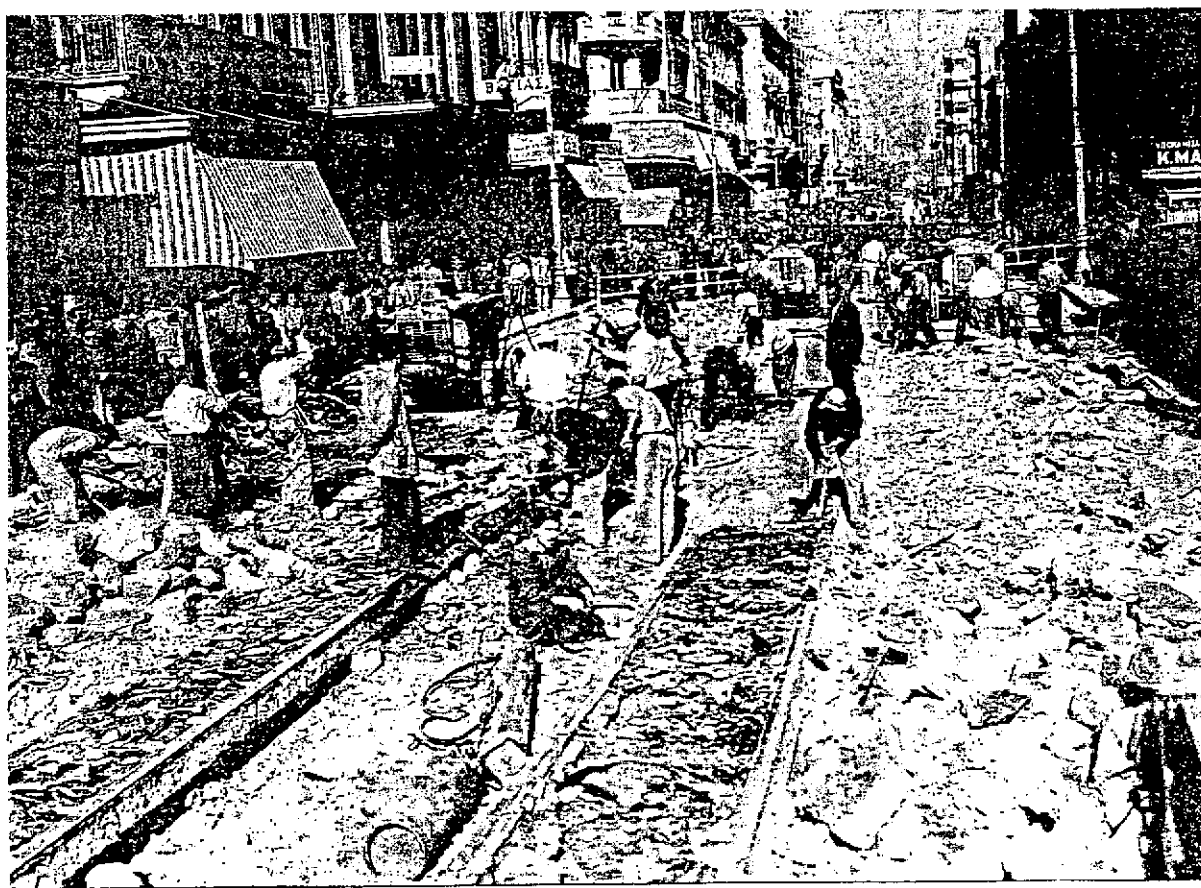
This tendency of “returning to roots” was placed in the conception of “Critic Regionalism” (Frampton, 1980), whilst the works by T. Zenetos, combined the Modern approach with the most advanced technological evolutions, which developed along with other trends determining the context of architectural research of this period. Architecture, at this time, followed the trends of the 1930s: continuation and extension of the Modern Movement on the one hand, dissociated from any interaction with social change, (P. Karantinos, P. Tsolakis, C. Bitsios, Th. Valentis) and an eclectic search for novelty on the other, a kind of modernized classicism (E. Vourekas, K. Laskaris) (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993).

In the majority of the city’s private buildings, the apartment buildings, the simple functional forms of Modernism were combined with the restrictions made by the General Building Regulations, which did not allow for many creative possibilities. The produced result was disappointing due to its lack of constructive and aesthetic quality.

In Architecture, the generation of the ‘30s continued to influence with their work (D. Pikionis, Th. Valentis, P. Karantinos), while new architects were made known, e.g. A. Konstantinidis, with his plain works for the “Organization of Council Housing”, N. Valsamakis with private homes, K. Decavallas with the housing reconstruction of Santorini after the earthquakes, and T. Zenetos with the monumental in size but unfinished renovation of the Fix factory on Syngrou avenue. Post-War



188.Dismantling tramlines in Vassilissis Sophias street in 1955 (source: private collection)



189.Dismantling tramlines Patission street in 1955 (source: private collection)

Modernism evolved in Greece, in a general spirit of hopefulness, with morphological and constructional researches becoming more and more daring. However, the exceptional work of this period was the formation of Open Spaces surrounding the Acropolis by D. Pikionis, a picturesque approach to natural Landscape, appreciated for its symbolic value.

During this period there was a trend in Architecture of disinterest, towards ideological, social, functional and structural matters, and a search for novelty.

3.3.4. The city.

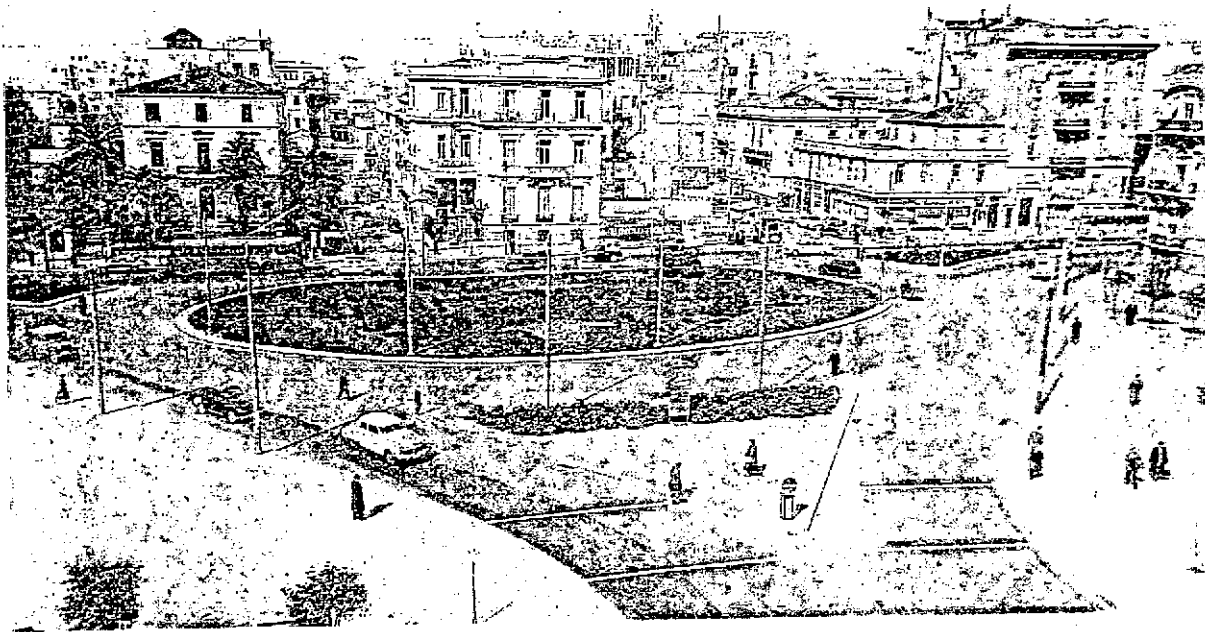
The city of Athens in the '50s, presented little difference from Athens of the Mid War period, as during this interval, most of destroyed buildings had been restored.

The decade of the '50s has been one of the most determinative periods for the future of the city, as during this period, its image has been drastically changed by an explosive population increase, with internal emigration, the city's reconstruction and the execution of large public works, which occurred at the same time with intense political events, deep changes in social life, and the prevalence of new views. The development of Athens, though equal to other Mediterranean capitals appeared excessive when placed in the national demographic framework (Burgel, 1976).

The rhythm of city life changed within a new urban environment, transformed at a quick pace, replacing the old city structure which was of a "human scale", with a new one, which was created by unacceptable means of exploitation and an architecturally indifferent built environment, of poor quality and inhospitable for the inhabitants (Sariyannis, 2000). The establishment of the "Antiparochi" (Exchange) system which was based on high density construction, was also determinative for the city's development.

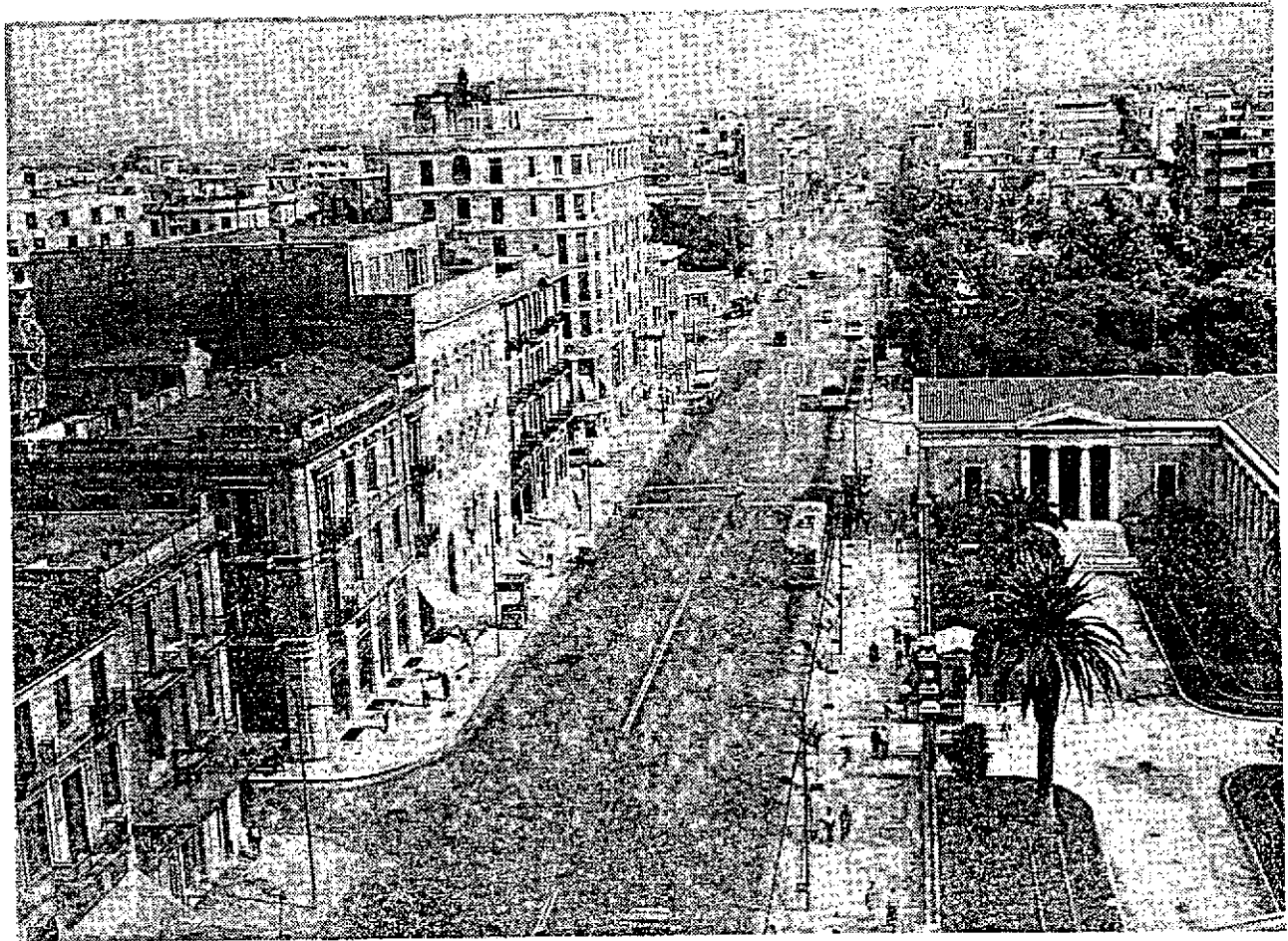
The post-War governments regarded this system as a solution to the problems of housing, economy's evolution and unemployment.

The "Antiparochi" system, which provided an outlet for Greek capital to be invested in construction, was carried out, by small construction companies and in most cases, without the input of architects. This system was necessary due to the inability of



190. Egypt's Square at the intersection Alexandras and Patisson streets in 1958

(source: Kathimerini)



191. Patisson street in 1956 without trams, at right the Polytechnic University (source: private collection)

contractors to provide funds for completion of production, and for the State to organize large Housing programs (Kalafatis, 1999).

The unequal character of Regional distribution, and the population concentration which had started during the first post War years, also continued during this decade.

In 1951, the population of Athens, in the region of the Municipality of Athens alone (the old city), according to a referendum, was 565.084, in a total of 1.378.586 of Athenian residents and 7.032.800 of the country's inhabitants.

In the period 1955-1961, the average annual rate of population increase in the basin of Athens was 2,25%, while in 1960 55% of Athenian population was composed of internal immigrants. In the period 1955-1964, the volume of constructional activity was doubled in relation to the pre-War period, and the new buildings in Athens amounted to the 47,5% of the new buildings constructed throughout the country.

The population inflow from agrarian regions in order to find work and shelter, mainly poured into Athens, created the explosive geographical increase of its size. This mostly occurred in the western part, with extensive arbitrary settlements, "Beyond the Town Plan", and were continuously expanding, without any schedule and infrastructure, causing great and irreversible damages to natural environment, as all empty spaces were being built with apartment buildings, (arbitrary constructions, lack of real estate registry, lack of water supply, increase of land prices etc).

The economic recovery had as consequence the rapid transformation of the city's environment.

The affluent people (upper and middle classes), lived in apartment buildings built around the city's center (Pagrati, Kypseli, Ambelokipi, Patisia,) and on Kifissias avenue and in private houses in the northern suburbs, while the city's center was extended along the new commercial axes. Between 1951 and 1971, two opposite tendencies appeared : a demographic decline of the city center and a large increase of the peripheral residential zones. Also, an extension of the urban fabric was created along the motorways (Burgel, 1976).

In spite of the fact that the mechanism of the city's reconstruction was based on the private sector, in 1954, the "Autonomous Organization of Working Class Housing" (AOEK) was founded, in order to provide shelter for the homeless blue and white collar workers (Marmaras, 1999).

Among the laws passed with regards to the housing and the city stipulations, in 1955, the new "General Building Regulation" had been published, which permitted the



192. Aerial view of Athens' center with Open Public and Green Spaces in 1958

(source: author's collection)

exploitation of urban land to a greater point than the Regulation of the '30s, and facilitated the development of apartment buildings (Sariyannis, 2000).

For instance, the maximum surface of any level was increased up to 87,5% of the site surface, and the total of surfaces increased up to seven times of the site's surface.

Until the end of the '50s, the construction of the coastal road to Sounion through superb landscapes to the southern coast of Attica, remained an extravagant plan as the whole area in this region was empty (Burgel, 1976).

One of the characteristics of this period was the domination of private car, whose circulation rapidly became more and more intense in the following periods. During this decade, a certain stabilization of the industrial character of Athens was noted, a decline of the less productive services and a significant increase of construction and public works. It was a period of significant internal restructuring. Athens was converted, from a Balkanian capital with the little artisan shops, to an economic metropolis with its industries and the economically influential centers (Burgel, 1976).

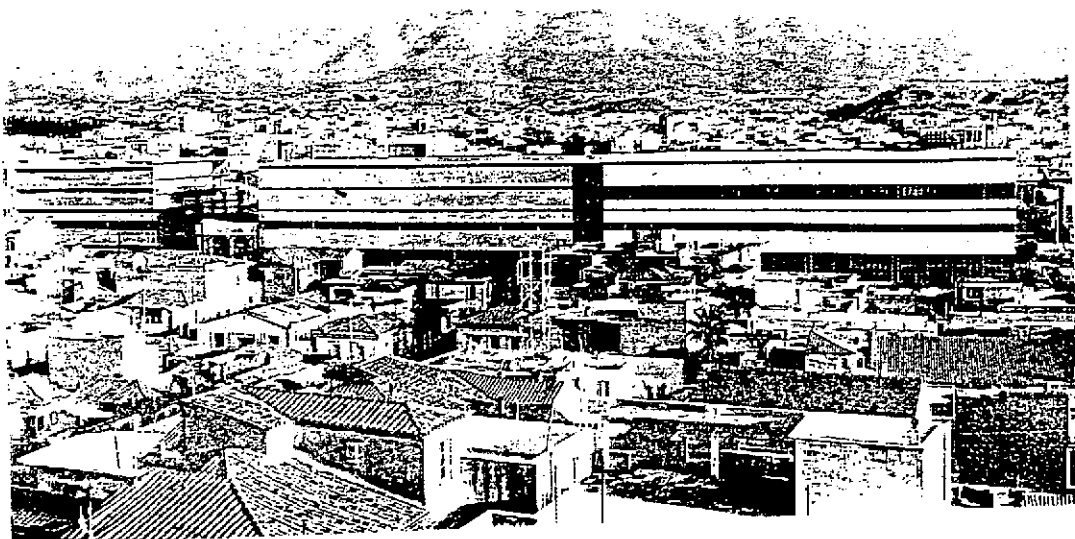
The large scale demolitions of old buildings caused entire districts to be eliminated, with only a few houses remaining, and a great number of prominent and beautiful buildings disappeared, transfiguring the city.

The new apartment building were responding to an average taste and reflected the economic level, while the neutral appearance was due to the need for a commercial flexibility.

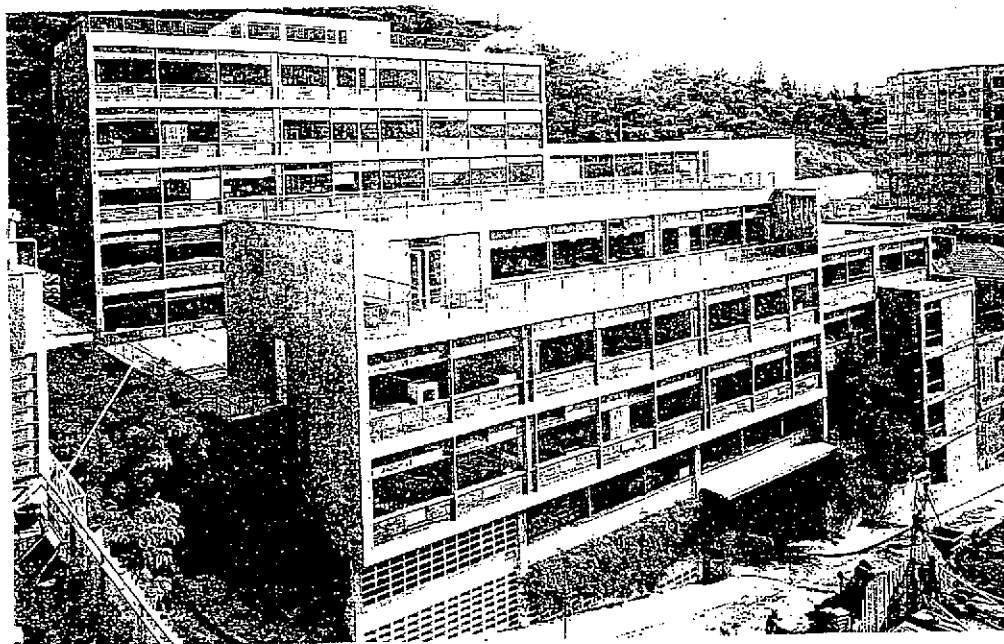
In 1961 the population reached 1.850.709 inhabitants. Since 1960, there was really no separation between the Municipality of Athens and other Municipalities of the Attica basin, as they consisted all together a united inhabited area, which covered the whole Athens basin, reaching the sea (Travlos, 1967).

Until 1950, the extension of the city towards the north and south part of it, was of impressive size, but with still obvious signs of underdevelopment, composing a "*a capital with a province appearance*" (Philippidis, 1984).

The State's uncoordinated efforts, the lack of decisive and documented proposals, and the behind-the-scenes activity, contributed to the absence of any attempt concerning the reformation of Athens, throughout the critical period of the '50s. The Ministry of Public Works promoted the increase of permissible building height, without a respective widening of streets and squares, despite the proposals made by the Municipality of Athens (Biris, 1996).



193. The Fix brewery by T. Zenetos and the old structure of Athens in 1957 (source: author's collection)



194. The building of Doxiadis Associates and Athenian Technological Institute in 1959
(source: Greece, 20th Century Architecture)

This was assigned by the State to the landowners and apartment contractors without decreasing the size of the sites, so to allow the protection of Public Space.

The reconstruction of the city, almost totally destroyed the neoclassical buildings in the central area, and replaced them with apartment buildings.

Athens suffered an awful change to its structure, as the remaining part of the old city, still retained its 19th century fabric, which was inadequate for the huge building volume that was constructed and had quite different relationships to space.

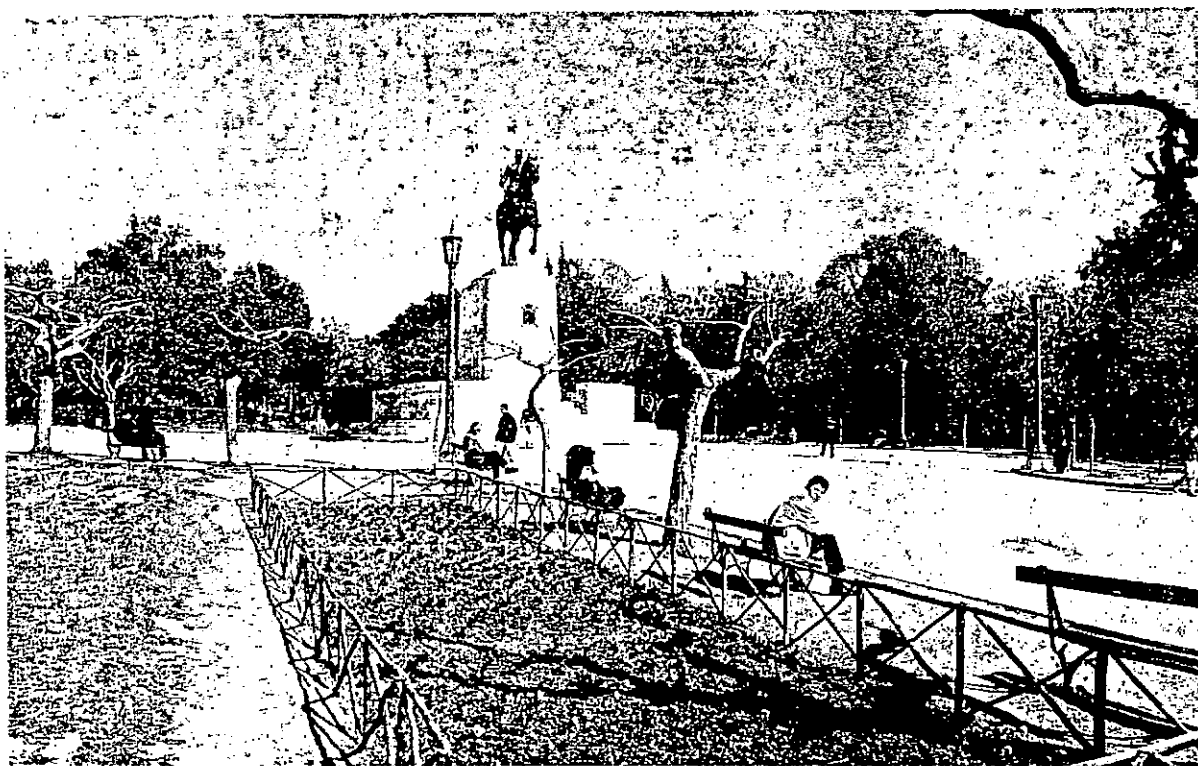
In this way, the city completely lost its neoclassical and mid-War Modern character, with the predominance of impersonal apartment blocks, which destroyed the relationships between private and public space, and caused a number of significant monuments to be demolished.

The protection of the Landscape and monuments concerned the government, and in 1950, the Law 1469/50 was issued with regards to the "Protection of Natural and Historic Landscapes and Modern Monuments", complementing the previous Law 5351/32.

Under the pressures for the Town's expansion the extension of the City Plan was decided, in order to incorporate areas along Kifissos river, despite the objections of the Municipality of Athens (Biris, 1996). In 1951, the Sub Ministry of Reconstruction repealed and the City Plan competences were assigned in 1953, to the Ministry of Public Works, thus forming the "Housing Service" (Biris, 1996).

In 1954, another Plan for Athens was elaborated by the Service of Urban Planning Studies belonging to the Ministry of Public Works, under the direction of P. Vassiliadis. Its general proposals however, were similar to those of 1947. In 1959, the Housing Service re-investigated the proposals regarding the opening and extension of roads in the center of the city, some of which were Korai street, the extension of Vassilissis Olgas towards Monstiraki, and the extension of Philellene street towards Makriyanni. These were considered for circulation reasons, but after a five years period, the plans had been abandoned, due to expropriation difficulties. The initial proposals for the construction of Stavrou – Elefsis avenue also were presented in this period.

As far as the issue of transportation was concerned, the decisions made in the Post-War period, showed a preference for private cars and not for Mass Transportation. The result of this policy, was the dismantling of tramways lines and the Lavrion train, decisions made when C. Karamanlis was Minister of Public Works



195. The Mars Field Park in 1955 (source: Kathimerini, Greece in the 20th century)



196. Patission street in 1955 (source: Benaki Museum)

(1955-1960), (Sariyannis, 2000). During the initial Post-War years and until 1950, the increased transportation needs, due to the city's expansion were covered by private buses. This resulted in the creation of a radial bus network with bus terminals in the city's center. The number of private cars rapidly increased, changing the pace and the image of the city. In 1956, there were already 20000 private cars, 3500 taxis and 2000 buses.

In the city's environment, Architecture was expressed by a "cosmopolitan rustic" of the upper class suburbs, a simplified and neutralized classicism in the center's apartment buildings, the majority of which were designed in a bare form any expression, neutral functionalism (Philippidis, 1984).

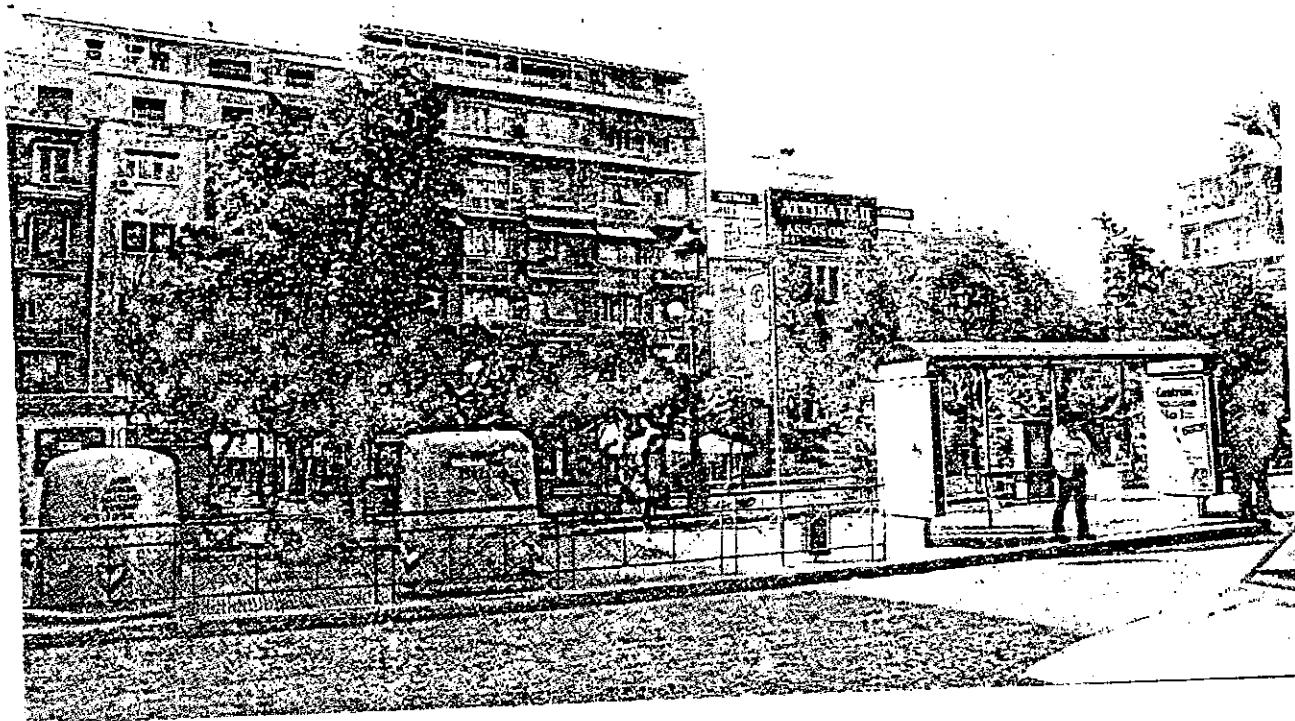
In 1953, the city's expansion, necessitated the extension of the railway line to Kifissia, but due to financial reasons, the line was constructed at ground level from Attica's square station, thus dividing the city into two parts.

A marked turn in the City's Public Works, occurred when C. Karamanlis undertook as Minister of Public Works. In three years, various public works were included in the Master schedule of the country's infrastructure works, following the concept of modernization. Some examples were the protection and elevation of historic monuments, the creation of a infrastructure for the development of Tourism, the construction of two National Roads Athens – Lamia, and Athens – Corinth), and the embellishment works in the region of Athens.

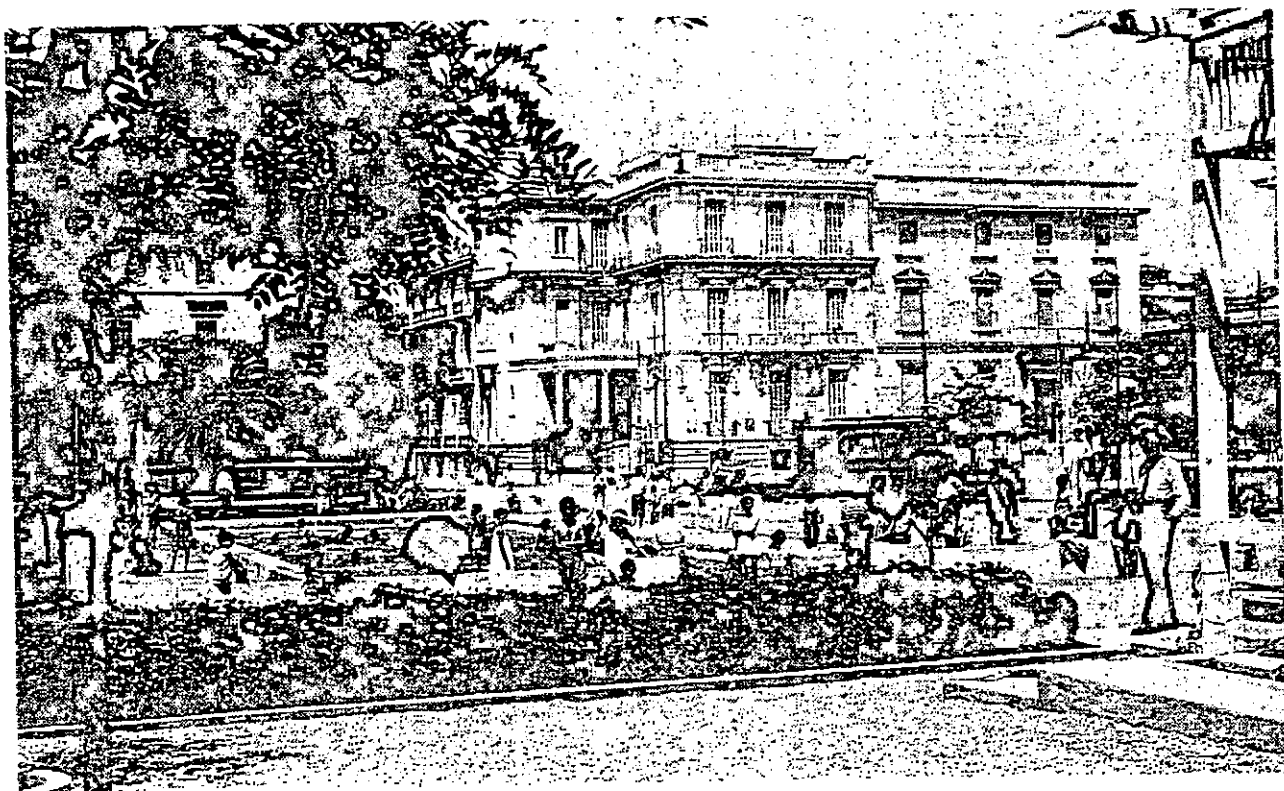
Moreover, other works included the construction of the road along the coast from Faliro to Sounio, the works around the Acropolis, the works in Omonia Square, the covering of Ilissos river etc.

3.3.5. The Public Spaces

In this period, the reconstruction of the city with the new apartment buildings, changed the relationships between the void and built space in the city's streets or squares. Their form and construction quality affected the image and quality of Public Spaces. During this procedure historic and significant neoclassical buildings in the broader historic center of Athens were demolished and replaced by new ones of a mediocre nature.



197. Amerikis Square which used to have a special character with a lot of green and old house, became indifferent and alike many other squares, due to Municipality's interventions since 1960 (source: Kathimerini)



198. Children's playground at the crossing Patisson and Alexandras street in 1953
(source: private collection)

"The majority of the buildings are characterized by inelegance.... morphological findings dull. and with oppressive colours" (Biris, 1996).

In this way, the character of Public Spaces and the urban landscape was changing.

After 1950, there were efforts for the embellishment of the Attica's landscape: The slopes of Hemettus mountain, in the areas of the monasteries of Ag. Ioannis Kinigos and Kessariani and the region of Egaleo mountain in the area of Daphni Monastery, were reforested.

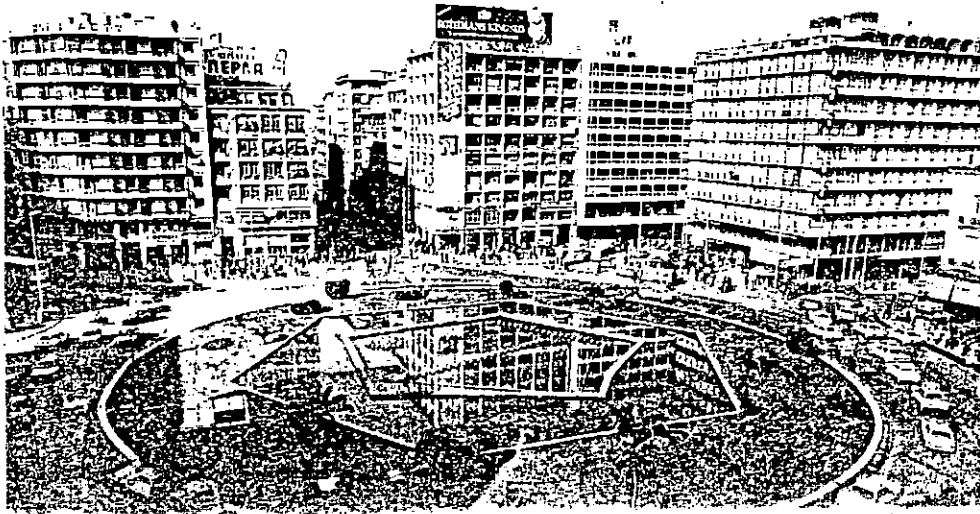
At the same time, despite the protests made, the elements of the natural landscape, which composed points of reference in the entire basin, suffered from damages caused by the quarries operating on Penteli mountain and Tourkovounia Hill, the upper part of Galatsi district (Vrilissos) and at the foot of Hemettus and Egaleo. (Biris, 1958).

The central squares instigated various businessmen to propose a number of constructions for exploitation purposes: Syntagma Square was proposed to be converted into a three storey commercial building, Klafthmonos square to acquire restaurants and pastry shops, or a Conservatory, Elefterias Square to acquire baths, etc. (Biris, 1958). Fortunately these proposals never materialized. In 1955, an architectural Competition was announced for the formation of Syntagma square, but it proved fruitless. Another Competition was published for Klafthmonos square's formation, with prevention of an underground Car Park. Only the Car Park has been constructed during the dictatorship.

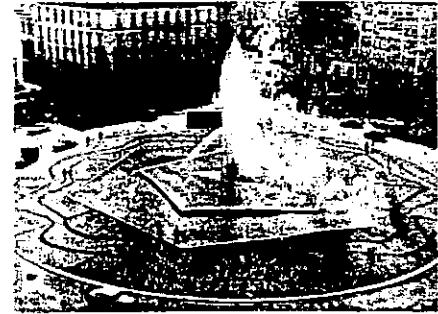
During this period, the final formation of Syntagma square was finished, as it stands today, while various works for Omonia and Klafthmonos square, were forwarded.

Especially the formation of Omonia Square in 1955, was intensely criticized.

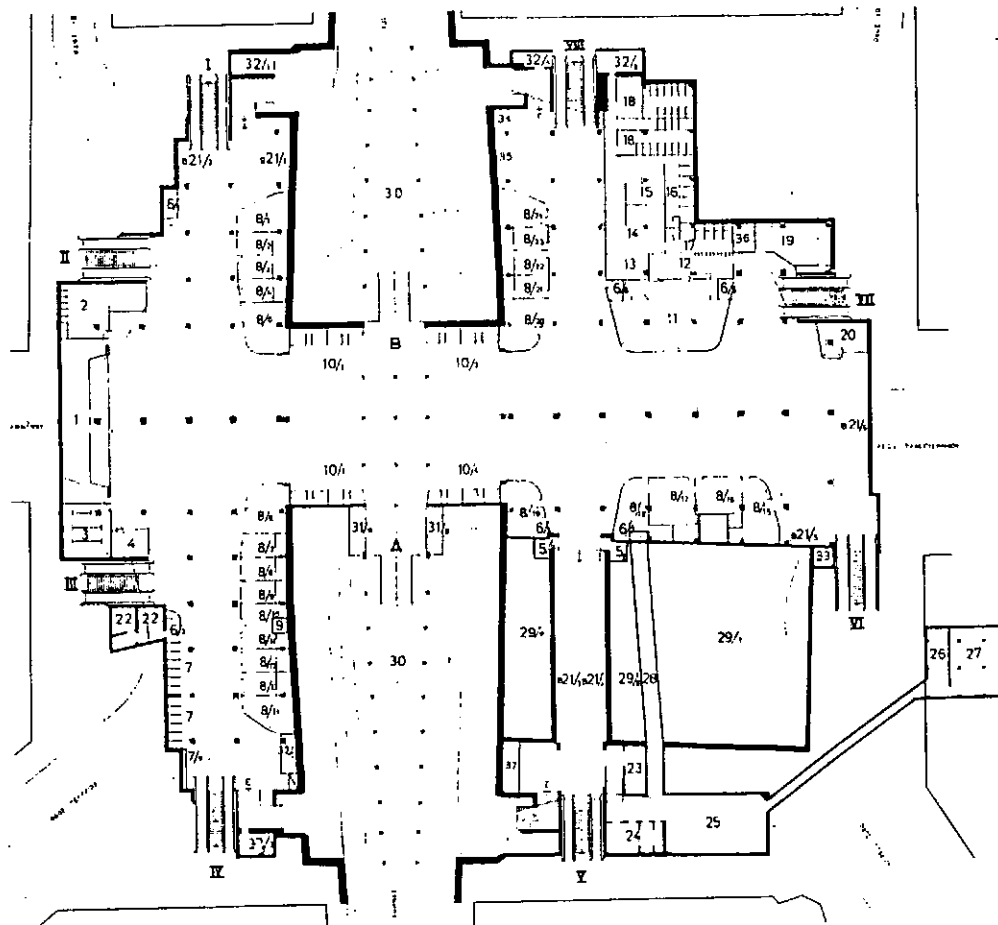
The arrangement was of a circular car circulation, and the shaping of the square's center with a pentagonal basin in the center of the circle and an inclined fountain, (by G. Zogolopoulos), a ground made up of gravel, not allowing access to pedestrians, as a statement of "modernization" according to "western" patterns. Social activity was relocated to the widened perimetric zone and the underground level arranged with shops, caused Omonia to lose its character as the main popular center for gatherings and social contacts (Kerophylas, 1993). Its flower selling stands, a special feature in this place, were transferred to Kotzia square, and the whole image



199. Omonia Square after its reformation (source: Philippidis 1984)



200. Omonia Square's fountain
(source: author's collection)



201. The lower level plan of Omonia Square, with shops and access to train platforms
(source: Philippidis 1984)

was changed, causing Omonia to become just a traffic junction. In that way, a city's familiar Open Public Space was lost and replaced by a "Modernistic scheme".

Besides, State's interventions were restricted during this critical period, only to circulation arrangements, and parking areas.

The problem of the circulatory load initiated proposals concerning the construction of underground parking stations in Kotzia and Klafthmonos square. A significant building, the Varvakion school, opposite the Central Market, destroyed by a fire during the Civil War, was demolished in 1956, and an one storey commercial building of ordinary construction was built, housing a number of small fruit shops.

Included in the framework of circulation arrangements, was the covering of Ilissos river, which was converted into a circulation road (Kallirois, Vassileos Constantinou, Michalakopoulou).

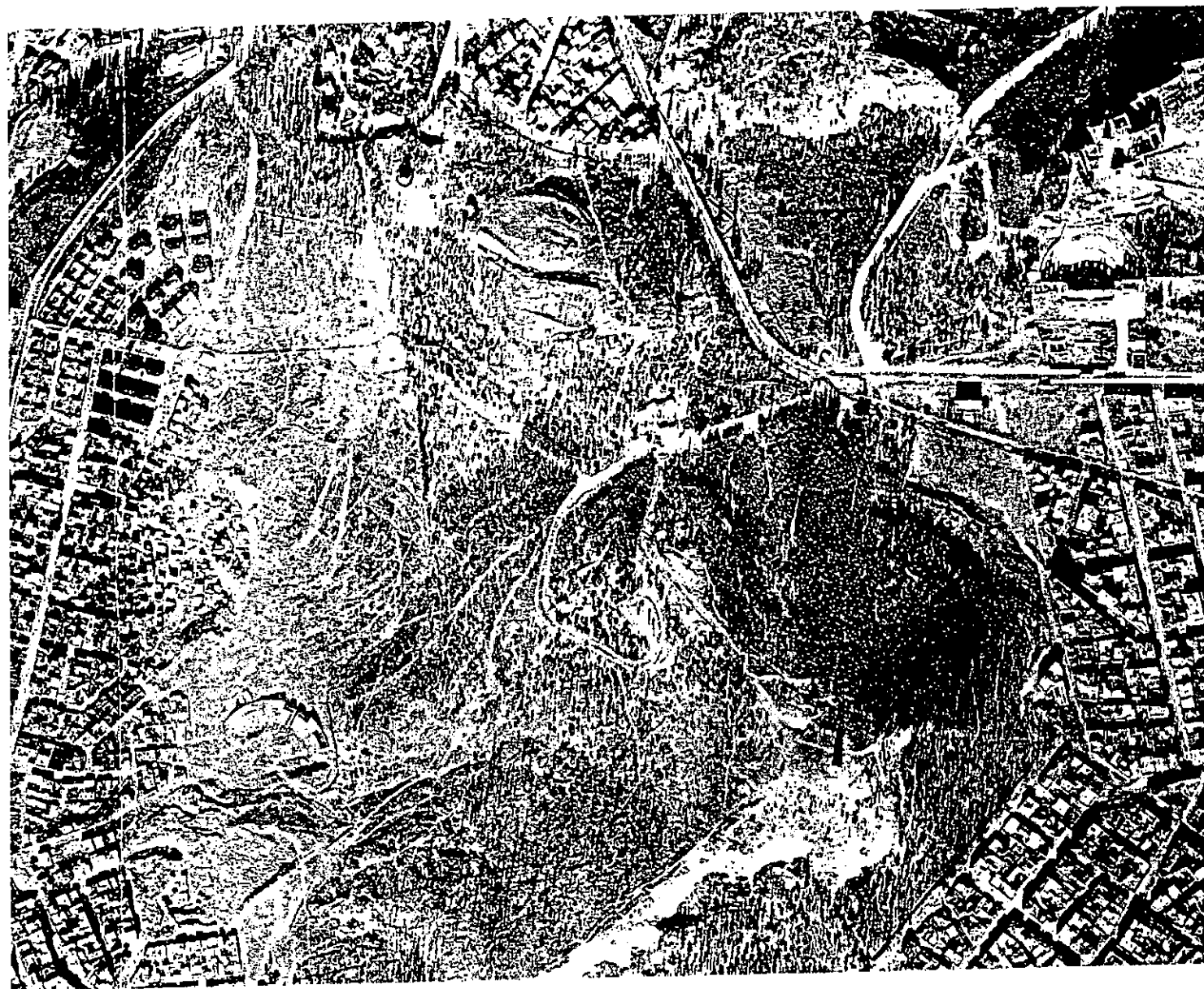
With this construction, the city lost not only a significant part of natural landscape, which was penetrating into the city space, but also a historic element which connected Athens with the ancient city, being in an area which included the Lyceum of Aristotles, the Ilissos's Centers and other monuments, which according to archaeologists, are considered as the most important archaeological sites after Acropolis and Ancient Agora.

Related to this area, was the case of the Hilton Hotel, for the construction of which, a special provision was added to the Building Regulation in order to permit a 54 meters building height, exceeding the permissible height, while an alteration of the Town Plan was also arranged. This issue gave rise to a number of critics for the damage caused to the Attic Landscape (Kerophylas, 1993). However, the construction started in 1959 and was completed in 1963, changing the relationships between spaces and also the economic and social features of the area.

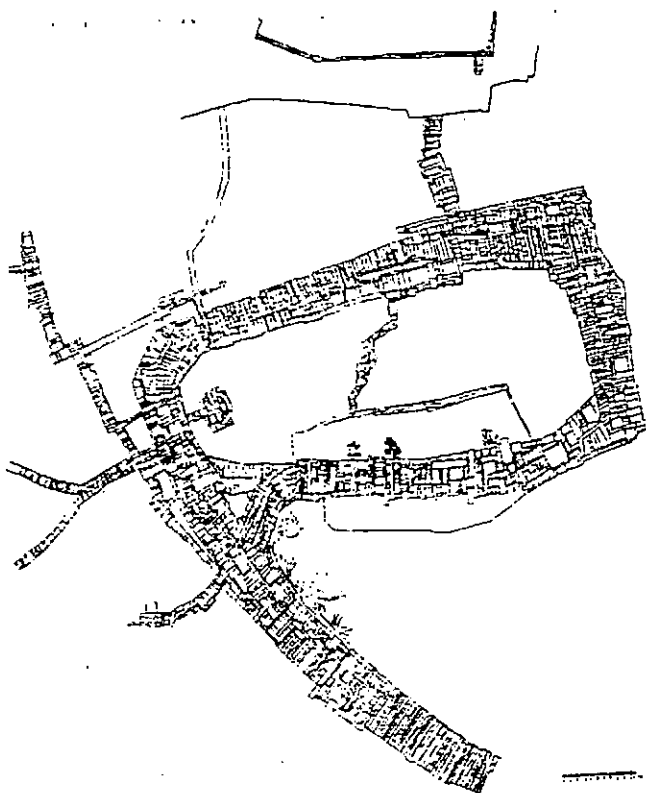
The haste for the touristic development of Athens also had other repercussions, as for instance, the attempt made for the creation of an open air theater in the area of Kili (Philoppapou hill), which damaged the ancient landscape and the archaeological site.

During this period, the most significant Open Public Space constructed in Athens, and one of the leading architectural works of the last decades, was the formation of the spaces around Acropolis, by D. Pikionis (1951 – 1957).

Already since 1950, the need for the shaping of the spaces around Acropolis was realized, in an attempt to improve the access to the ancient sites for a "turning



202. Aerial view of Philopappou hill, with Pikionis' formations (source: Pikionis' Works)



203. Drawing by D. Pikionis for the Acropolis' pavements (source: Pikionis' Works)

point in the esteem of the ancient heritage" and to incorporate them in the urban fabric (Papageorgiou – Venetas, 1996).

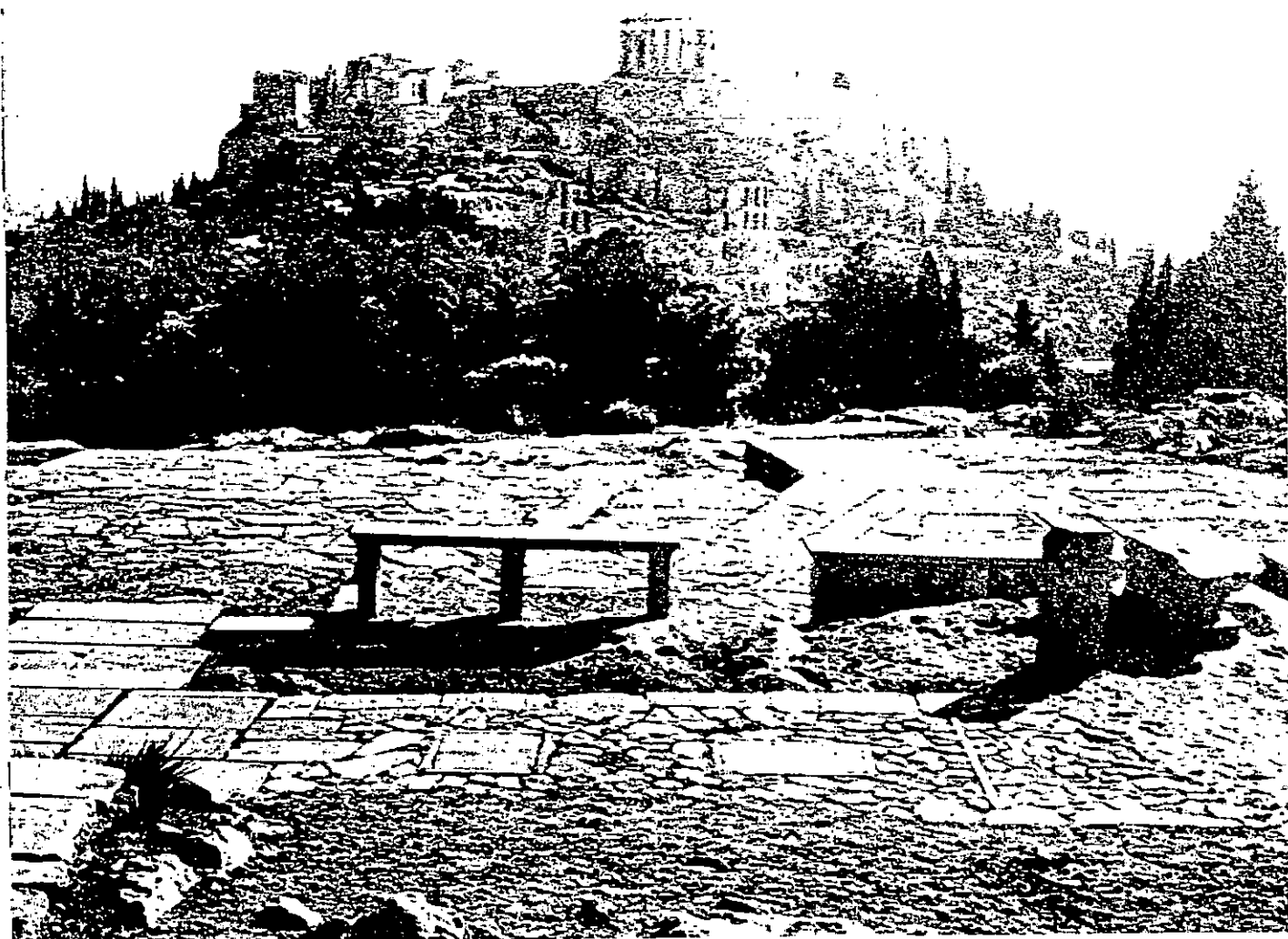
The whole formation consisted of an access system with two branches and pedestrian roads, adapted with great sensitivity to the topography of the area, including places for rest and sight seeing, incorporating the characteristic topographical elements and the antiquities of various periods with references to the archetype forms of Greek Architecture in the design of its buildings. Belonging to the movement in search for Greek self-knowledge and Critical Regionalism, this work offered another dimension to the quality of architectural work, and its incorporation with the landscape. Using different characters in the various constructions and pavings, with embodied traditional and popular elements of historic memories, it created an encompassing correlation with the historic environment, with emphasis placed on components of the landscape's particular character, its topography and the place's symbolic meaning. This work became symbolic and signified a protest against the destruction of the landscape and the dehumanizing architecture of our time (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993).

The character of the gardening solutions also caused disputes, as in the excavated area of the Ancient Agora the legibility of the ruins was attempted, with discrete plantation, while in the Odeum of Herod Attic and on Philopappou Hill, a dense plantation was used. This resulted in the alteration of the image of the bare Attica Landscape, as this was known from the engravings and the watercolors of the 19th century travelers. Painter J. Tsarouchis defended the physiognomy of the rocks, being the characteristic of Greek Landscape (Papageorgiou – Venetas, 1999).

In January 1955, the formation of Dionyssiou Aeropagitou street, south of the Acropolis, initially constructed in 1857, was decided. Despite the concerns for the violation of the areas' ancient heritage, this work was considered necessary for the touristic development of Athens. The number of tourists in this period was so big, that the hotel beds were not sufficient (Kerophylas, 1993).

In February, the study for the development of the Attica coasts, from Castella to Sounio, was approved, and touristic works were scheduled in Glyfada.

The broader natural Landscape of the Athens basin, was cut into pieces, and its functions were altered. A large area with vineyards and olive trees in Nikea, a western region of Athens, was destroyed for the creation of the 3rd Cemetery, causing the first alteration of the character of this area, which later on, was converted into an



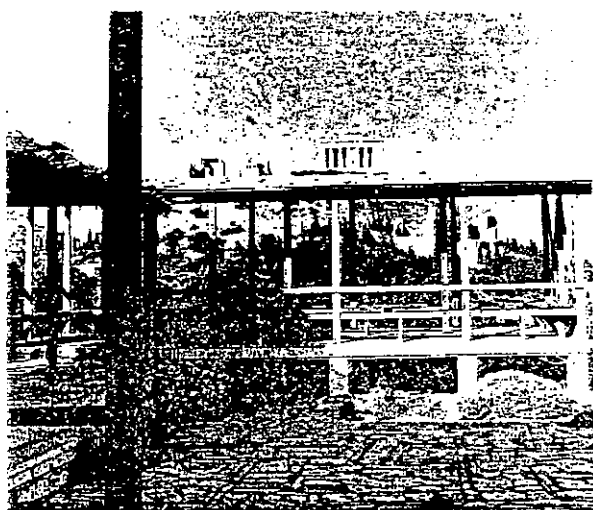
204. Pikionis' Landscape formations (source: Pikionis' Works)



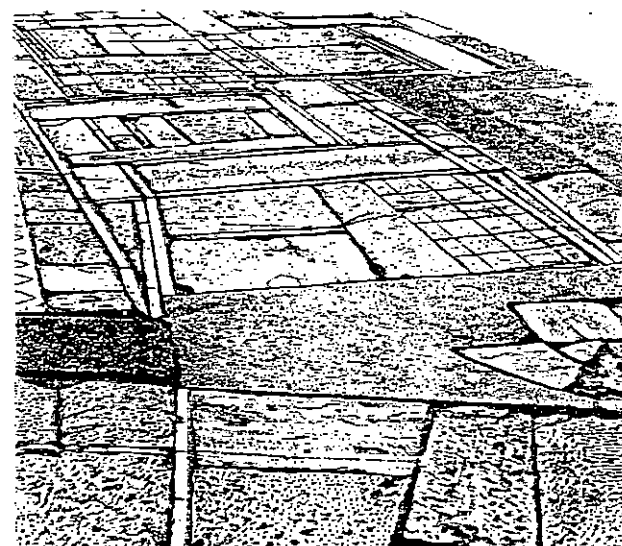
205. The formation of spaces on Acropolis and Philopappou Hill (D. Pikionis, 1957, source: Pikionis' Works)



206. The formation of spaces on Acropolis and Philopappou Hill
(D. Pikionis, 1957, source: Pikionis' Works)



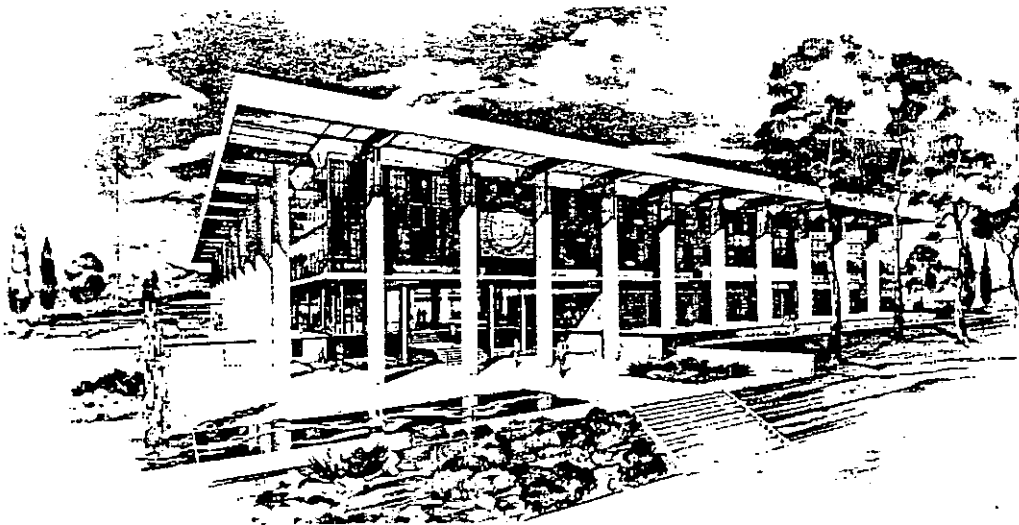
207. The formation of spaces on Acropolis and Philopappou Hill
(D. Pikionis, 1957, source: Pikionis' Works)



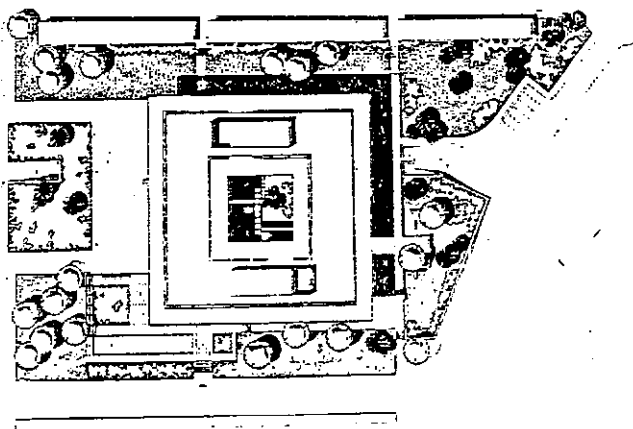
208. The formation of spaces on Acropolis and Philopappou Hill
(D. Pikionis, 1957, source: Pikionis' Works)



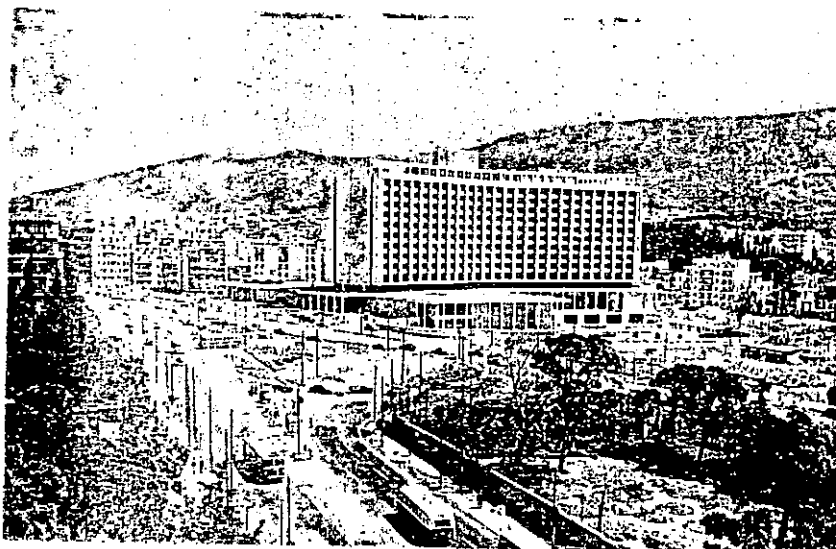
209. The formation of spaces on Acropolis and Philopappou Hill
(D. Pikionis, 1957, source: Pikionis' Works)



210. The American Embassy in Athens (W. Gropius 1961, source: author's collection)



211. The American Embassy, plan (source: author's collection)



212. Hilton Hotel and its relationships with the built and natural environment ,
(source: Biris 1996)

industrial site, though keeping its original name, Eleonas (olive grove), (Papageorgiou – Venetas, 1996).

In 1952 in the Mars' Field, the monument of British War Memorial for Soldiers killed during the War was unveiled, with the statue of Athena placed on a high column.

The character of the Public Spaces of Athens, during this period, had two aspects, having partly the image of a contemporary city, and partly the image of an urban space of Balkan traditions, in which the street market and the little shops co-existed with the narrow streets and the low rise houses.

During this period coffee shops in central squares, such as Syntagma, Omonia, Kolonaki, Victorias etc, were very familiar, offering an outdoor café life from the afternoon till late evening. Thus they became the center of Athens' public and social realm, for both Athenians and tourists.

In 1959, the construction of the American Embassy commenced. In this way Athens acquired a significant building (W. Gropius), based on the ancient archetype of building with atrium, with parametric colonnade which had been conceived in an attempt to be incorporated in the climate and the Urban context, in a modern – classical style. However, after some decades, the Open Public Space in front of it, became a “protest arena” and the building was secluded for security reasons.

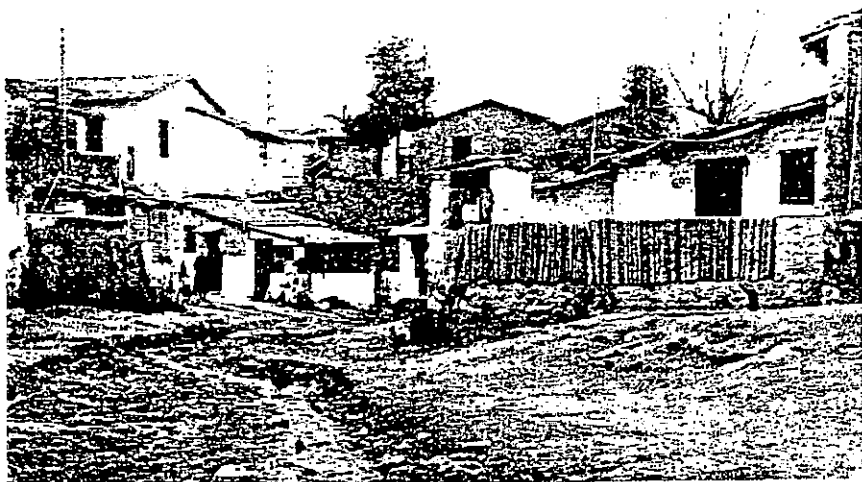
In the period 1953-1963, the “Committee for the protection of the Greek Landscape” had been reorganized and renamed to “Deanship of National Landscape and Cities”, and undertook an active role in the protection and elevation of the Greek Landscape.

In its resolution in 1954, it declared “*The Greek Nature and the Greek Landscape consist a national treasury, belonging to the whole, which has not to be damaged, however it has undergone severe destructions...*”.

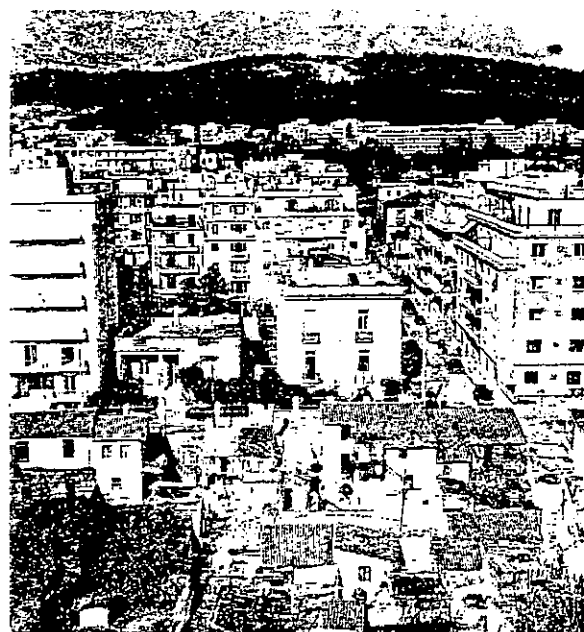
The Deanship of National Landscape and Cities would become a enlightening collective Institution, objecting to any damages of the Landscape, in the years to come.

In conclusion, the dominant fact of this period is the unprecedented construction exaltation, which, combined with certain transportation infrastructure and tourism's works, led Greek Economy to prosperity.

The lack of organization and control of the constructive activity by the State had unfavorable consequences on the built environment and the Open Public Spaces.



213. Refugees' houses in Ilissos' beds, demolished to give place to Michalacopoulou street construction in 1955. (source: Shelter in Greece)



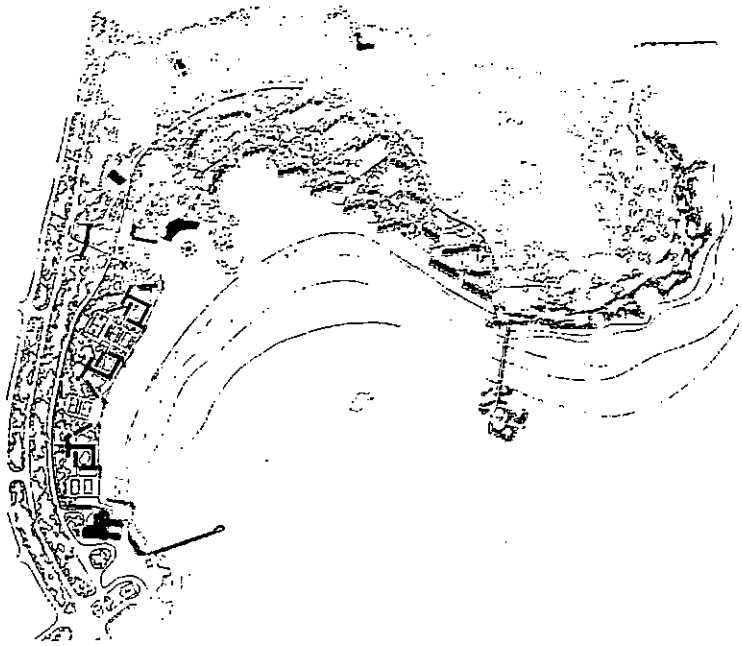
214. Refugees' houses in Ilissos' beds, demolished to give place to Michalacopoulou street construction in 1955



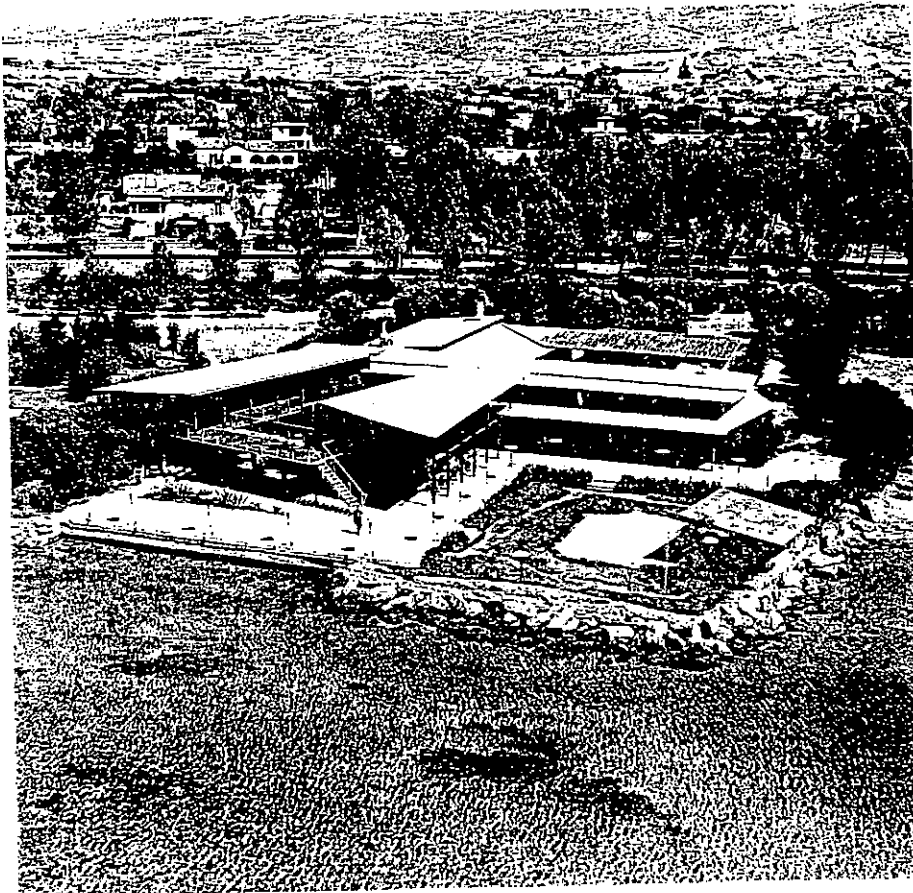
215. Map of Open Spaces in Athens in 1958 (source: Ministry of Culture 1989)

Athens lost most of its magnificent Neoclassical buildings, thus the character and image of Open Public Spaces changed dramatically.

The spirit of Athens city Modernization and the need for touristic development, caused unwise interventions in Open Public Spaces e.g. the reformation of Omonia Square and the dismantling of tramways' rails, but also the formation of the spaces around the Acropolis by D. Pikionis. On the other hand, the fury to solve functional city's problems such as the car circulation, led to hastily decisions, e.g. the conversion of Ilissos river into a circulation road with hard consequences for the city's environment and the quality of Open Public Spaces.



216. Part of the Touristic development of Saronic Gulf coastal area, with installations Glyfada in 1957 (source: Greece, 20th century Architecture)



217. Aerial view of Glyfada installations in 1957 (source: Greece, 20th century Architecture)

3.4. ATHENS DURING THE PERIOD BEFORE THE MILITARY COUP (1960-1967)

An Unsettled Period

3.4.1. General

In 1961, the Agreement for Greece's admission into European Economic Community, was signed. This agreement, of fundamental significance, was the result of C. Karamanlis insistent efforts and meant a political direction towards economic and democratic modernization, to which though, the Palace and Washington were opposed to. Simultaneously, the prosecutions against the Left continued, by the espionage charges brought against members of the Communist Party and by organized clashes against followers of EDA, by members of the State, in view of the elections of October 1961 (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

In 1961, the Center Union (E.K.) was founded under G. Papandreou, a multi-collective political formation of parties representing liberal and moderate ideals but with many inner-partial divisions and differences, without a unified structure and political philosophy. However, it presented a possibility to repress the Conservative's control (Tsoukalas, 1968).

In 1961, the Center of Economic Research was established, under the Ministry of Coordination, headed by A. Papandreou and the first 5-year developmental programs were studied. A number of services were also founded in the same Ministry, aiming to organize the regional development of various areas in the country. The industrialization of the country proceeded, with the creation of industries for Alumina (Pechiney), the Hydro-Electric works in Tavropos, while Shipping, continuously developing, reached the 11th position in the International ranking.

The "Greek Shipyards" were also founded by private initiative.

In the parliamentary elections of October 1961, ERE won (50,8%), but the Opposition denounced the results as an outcome by "violence and fraud" and announced the "Unrelenting struggle".

As a consequence, a number of political rallies were organized in 1962, in an acute political climate, and violent clashes took place, between people that were



218.A tense political situation followed the elections in 1961 (source: United Photoreporters)



219.Syntagma Square in December 1964. Students protest asking for democracy in Education (source: Kathimerini)

furious with the events and the police, also including various agrarian demonstrations in the country.

In such a climate, the marriage of princess Sophia, in 1962, her dowry and the relevant celebrations, further aggravated the situation.

In 1963, students' demonstrations and acute riots began, demanding the increase of expenses for Education and settlement of related problems. In April, after the 4th Panhellenic Student Congress, the National Students' Association of Greece (EFEE) was founded. In the international scene, the Peace Movement was developing, but in relevant demonstrations in Greece, the deputy of EDA Gr. Lambrakis was murdered by parastate elements, an incident which would be considered as a sign of intolerable oppression, and would worsen the political climate (Tsoukalas, 1968).

This has also been a period of political conflict between the two axes of power, the Conservative government and the Palace, dependent on foreign policy, which finally led to the resignation of C. Karamanlis and to the general elections of November 1963, in which the Center Union was elected by 42% of the population, but without parliamentary self-reliance.

The result of the elections, marked the end of Conservative Power and isolated C. Karamanlis from political affairs. G. Papandreou also resigned later on, in order to pursue governmental self reliance.

In the elections of February 1964, the Center Union obtained a majority of 53%.

The deceased King Paul was succeeded by his son Constantine 2nd, whose royal wedding in September 1964, was performed with magnificent ceremonies.

The Center Union attempted to apply a social policy, to modernize Education, and to follow an independent foreign policy. The political system's lack of flexibility did not permit the succession in the exertion of authority, which produced intense reactions (Svoronos, 1976). A strong movement of social and economic demands were made by the Center Union, under A. Papandreou, as a leader of a large group of technocrats-intellectuals, and forwarded a French style of economic planning (Tsoukalas, 1968). The Cyprus affair was evolved as an existential international problem of the East Mediterranean. The situation of the Cyprus issue was again tense, with the forwarding of a Greek Division, bloody clashes, and threats made by Turkey for take – over, while in Ankara and Smyrna assaults against Greeks took place and the situation came to the brink of war.



220. Students' rally for the Cyprus issue, in front of the University (March 1964,
source: United Photoreporters)



221. The marriage of Constantine and Anne-Marie. The royal carriage goes through
Omonia Square (source: United Photoreporters)

In the socio-economic sector, successful attempts were carried out to stimulate the economy with measures, such as the regulation of agrarian debts, the increase of the purchasing power of the working class, the decrease of inequalities etc. However, the problem of external emigration still remained. The emigration problem of Greek workers to Western Europe, had acquired substantial proportions from 1958. It absorbed the main part of underemployment and unemployment and was a critical factor for the character of the economic and social reformations (Kalafatis, 1999). The country's turn towards industrialization of the country began at the end of the '50s, and followed an upward trend in the period 1960-1970. The high rates of growth in this period were due to constructions (TEE, 1981).

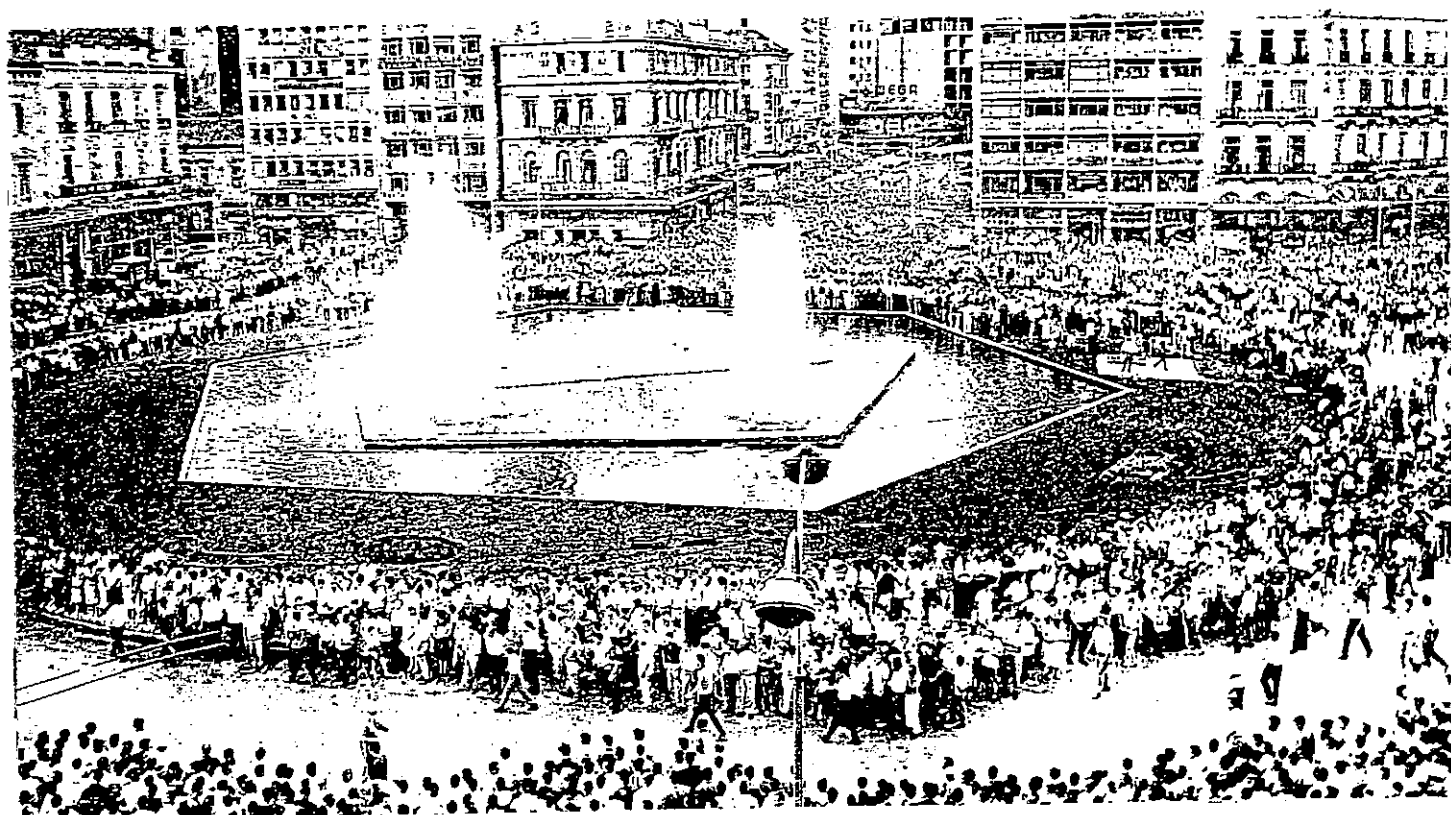
In this period, the developmental procedure was affected by the rapid increase of the tourism and the expansion of Shipping. The agrarian sector employed the majority of the working potential, but the lack of organization in production did not allow for the development of a decisive role in the economy. The economic vigor of the Greek economy in this decade, was false and hid a significant destruction of social structures.

The admission of foreign capital was considered as a panacea, due to the lack of Greek operational activity, though it was a fact that strengthened the political and economic dependence of the country on NATO. In this way the ties between foreign capitals and the country, were dependent on each government (Tsoukalas, 1968).

Simultaneously, the ideology of the Common Market started to evolve, supported by the economic oligarchy, aiming to establish a stabilization of a social structure.

Since this period, Greece with a per capita income of 400 dollars, could not be considered as a poor country any more.

Since already the beginning of the year, there were indications that an uneasy period was dawning, as the Conservatives in agreement with the Palace, cultivated a climate to overturn the existing situation. The government's hesitance to resign after a royal intervention in political matters, which violated the fundamental rules of the parliamentary system, and the "apostasy" of Center Unions' deputies started off hundreds of riots and bloody clashes in Athens and other cities, that followed the accentuation of the political climate and the continuous governmental crises. In this



222. People protesting against the political situation in Omonia Square in July 1965

(source: Historic Album. Kathimerini)

climate, on the New Year's Day of 1966, King Constantine caused a political storm by calling the Communist party a miasma, while in the Army the would-be heads of the coup were promoted.

In September 1966, twenty-eight officers were brought to trial for the ASPIDA case and in October, the sensational trial for the murder of Gr. Lambrakis, opened (Tsoukalas, 1968).

The intense political climate, the juxtapositions, and the attempts for a stable political scheme continued during the first months of 1967, but the elections proclaimed for the 28th of May, did not materialize.

On 20th April, a conference of the "generals' junta" took place, during which, the Chief of General Staff proposed a military coup, but the "colonels' junta" prevented. The military coup in 21th April, would lead the country to a regime of neo-fascist ideology.

At the same time, these social and political upheavals caused a change in economy, that was evolving under the pressure of severe economic and political events, which facilitated the admission of foreign capital and contributed to the increase of consumption.

3.4.2. The Social Structure

During this period, the discrepancy had become apparent between the way the government handled affairs and the uprising social and political powers.

This was the period of transition from post-War poverty and shortages, to a phase of relative prosperity and convenience. The Greek society was dynamically changing, with an intense presence made by the youth (Diamatopoulos, 1999).

The interior policy of the Center Union permitted a wide category of citizens to regain its rights and, delivered from the fugitive syndrome, to be re-incorporated in social activity (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

The economic modifications resulted to changes in the social structure.

In 1952, Agriculture employed 56% of the active population in comparison to 60% prior to the War, and 53% in 1962, while the percentage of those engaged in the industry and tertiary sector was increasing.



223. The biggest political reunion in recent history, held in Klafthmonos Square for G. Papandreou's speech (February 1966, source: Kathimerini)

The urban population of Greece, was increasing continuously : 33% of the entire population in 1940, reaching 44% in 1961, with a tendency in changing its economic and social structures.

Athens experienced the largest rates of population increase, due to the internal emigration, which resulted a relevant change of its social composition.

The shifting of population from the agrarian to urban sector, reflected on the to lower income classes who attempted to improve their living conditions.

The working social class had difficulties in being constituted in the economic and social organization, due to the formation of the Greek society and its level of development.

A peculiarity of the Greek economy, was that the majority of the work force consisted of self-employed people and members of their families, and not by employers and salaried people.

Emigration, Tourism, and Shipping with the relevant exchange inflow, led to the creation of new social relationships and the dissolutions of the older ones. Incomes sent from abroad, permitted the amortization of internal social pressures (Mouzelis, 1978).

This procedure contributed to the development of the lower middle classes and the strengthening of the working class.

In this way, at the beginning of the '60s, the imbalances which characterized the social structures were moderated, and the living standards had significantly improved.

The political change which occurred in 1961, was due to the attempt made for a broader application of democracy in the countryside, and in the new class alliance which was shaped among the large agrarian masses, the working class and the radical elements of the middle and lower bourgeoisie, which caused the collapse of the previous order of affairs (Tsoukalas, 1968).

The working conditions, social mentalities, patterns of consumption, developed according to imported investments.

In this way, a new class of tradesmen and free-lance professionals (small industrialists, building contractors, who made fortunes from public and private works) was created, who kept their distance from the Conservative State (Diamantopoulos, 1999).



224. Greek paysan emigrant with her children, after her arrival in W. Germany
(source: Kathimerini)



225. Greek emigrants in W. Germany in 1966 (source: Kathimerini)

These social reformations resulted in a bourgeois population, with increasing standard of living and willing to widen its political freedom.

Since the beginning of the '60s, new groups had been imposed in the sector of enterprises.

The invasion of consumerism did not overturn the value system of the traditional society, having the family as its center, and maintaining social control.

However, the average size Greek family started to shrink, abandoning strict its patriarchy character, and adopting new social values which facilitated the looseness of family ties. The Youth showed off its social power, with an autonomous presence and expression in the area of social and political claims for democracy in the country and in universities, national independence, and educational reformation, following the example of western societies after the War (Kiaos, 1999).

3.4.3. The spirit of the times

The period 1960 – 1967, except for the political juxtapositions and the continuous interventions of non institutional factors, was a period of prosperity for literature and arts. This was supported by the settlement of political life, which permitted the diversion in civilization.

A new spirit emerged after the Center Union took office and the first measures were announced : free education, cancellation of agrarian debts, doubling of the salary of judicial and bank employees, redistribution of income etc.

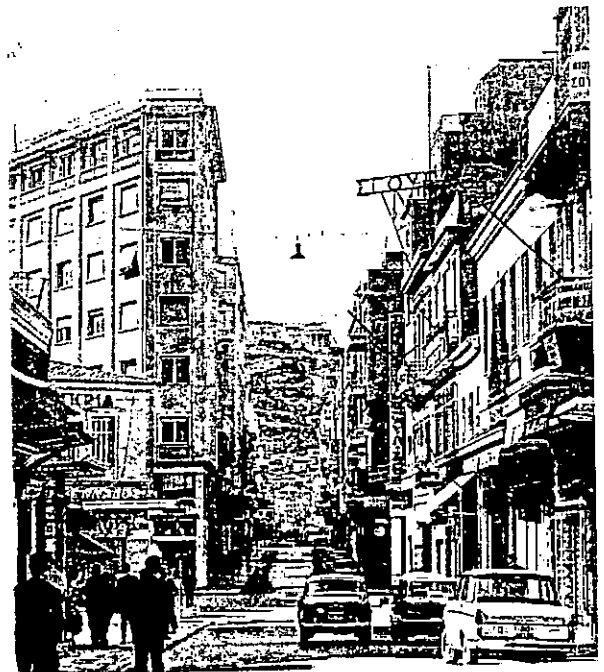
An astonishing movement of ideas, conversations and cultural activities, created a new atmosphere. The Educational Reformation, on the axis of establishing the demotic language, free education, the Academic certificate, the upgrading of studies, the foundation of new Universities, (Patras, Ioannina), assisted the development and establishment of democracy in Greek society, and was the hum of the preceded international reformation trend in the USA and Europe. Its aim was to adaptation to new conditions which were created in society, economy, and technology. The intense reactions made by conservative cycles, (i.e. the School of Literature of the University of Athens), finally led to its definite invalidation, in 1967, with the military coup of 21st April (Dimaras, 1999).



226.Ermou street in 1965 (source: Kerophylas 1997)



227.News vendor in Syntagma Square, in the '60s
(source: Kerophylas 1997)



228.Old and new buildings in Eolou street, in 1965 (source: Biris 1996)

The argument on the "Greek character" again, emerged on the occasion of an exhibition of Byzantine Art in 1964, in Zappion. The painter J. Tsarouchis, in an article asserted that : *"The Greek spirit is independent from notices, man accepts as an ideal the balance which does not destroy any of its composing elements"*.

For the same artist, the notion, "Attic character" was related to the work of the painter C. Parthenis. The Art critic T. Spiteris attempted to answer this question by examining the work of four painters : F. Kontoglou, N. Hadjikyriakos-Ghika, S. Vassiliou and J. Tsarouchis, while the same argument was also occasionally raised by other painters, critics etc.(Philipppidis, 1984).

In Literature, during this period, three generations creatively coexisted, the generation of the '30s, which being in its mature creativity period continued along a path which had started in the mid War period, (Seferis, Elytis, Ritsos, Alexiou, Empirikos, Vretakos, Pentzikis and others), the first post-War generation, which having actively or sentimentally taken part in the events of their era, (Anagnostakis, Kyrou, Thassitis, Sachtouris, Patrikios, Sinopoulos, Kaknavatos, Sotiriou and others), had as common characteristics the *"tragic seriousness, lack of illusions or visions, and sometimes pessimism"*, and the second post-War generation (Leondaris, Evangelou, Iordanidou, Samarakis, Axioti, Hatzis, Hakkas, Vassilikos and others) who were characterized by an image of the world full of bitterness caused by denial, which originated from their childhood during the War, Occupation, Civil War, persecutions and exile. New narrative methods, expressed a live experiential material, through a connection of specific events with a view determined by ideology (Papageorgiou, 1999).

The study by Z. Lorentzatos "The Lost Center" raised the point of contemporary spiritual orientation which had escaped from the original human requests, that previous periods of "innocence" had inactivated.

In Literature, some of the most important works of this period, were :

1960. : Od. Elytis : Six and one Remorses for the sky, Str. Tsirkas : States without government, J. Negrepointis : Destroyed, M. Sachtouris Walk.

1961. : A. Samarakis : I deny, Sp. Plaskovitis : The barrier, N. Kasdaglis : I am your God.

1962. : K. Tachtsis : The third wreath, M. Koumantareas : The mopeds, St. Tsirkas : Ariagni, D. Sotiriou : Blooded ground.



229. Asking for expenses' increase for Education in 1962 (source: Kathimerini)

1963. : G. Seferis was honored with the Nobel Prize.

M. Iordanidou : Loxandra, T. Patrikios : Poems, D. Hatzis : The end of our little town, M. Alexandropoulos : Nights and dawns.

1964. : J. Ritsos : Poems, G. Theotokas : Ill and walkers, J. Ioannou : For a pride.

1965. : A. Kyrou : The block, G. Seferis : Copies, T. Livaditis : Poetry, A. Samarakis : The mistake.

1966. G. Seferis : Three occult poems, D. Hatzis : Unprotected,

V. Vassilikos : Z, M. Hakkas : Rifleman of the Army.

1967. M. Koumantareas : The Sailing, R. Roufos : The Greeklings.

In the field of Fine Arts, in Abstract Painting, compositions by Spyropoulos, Kontopoulos, these by T. Marthas, N. Sahinis, K. Eliadis, K. Xenakis were added, which were of works abstract, inpictorial, and impersonal.

In Sculpture, during the '60s, J. Spiteri, N. Pastra, Al. Mylona, Philolaos, Thodoros, Fr. Michalea were distinguished by their works (Pavlopoulos, 1999).

In the field of Engraving, works with a expressionistic or cubistic idiom were those created by N. Ventouras, E. Papadimitriou, G. Velissaridis. The personal styles of Tassos with Byzantine influences, and of V. Katraki with stone engraving techniques, reached their peak during this period.

New galleries were founded in this period, (Zoumboulaki, Merlin, Astor, Hilton Art Salon), while there were many participations and prize winning of new artists in international exhibitions (Ch. Kapralos in Sao Paolo, G. Sclavos in Paris, J. Spiteri in Sao Paolo, Thodoros in Paris etc).

In the Theater, new playwrights appeared (V. Ziogas, K. Mourselas, L. Anagnostakis, P. Matessis), who, in collaboration with new companies, deepened the questioning of the theater.

New Theatrical companies were established, such as the Cycle Theater (L. Trivizas); The Theater Course, (A. Damianou), New Ionia (G. Michailidis), The Experimental Theater (M. Rialdi) and moreover, The Art Theater (K. Koun) followed an experimental theatrical search. Simultaneously, various companies, by sanctioned actors continued their performances (Mavromoustakos, 1999).



230. Sketch from the Aristophane's "Birds" performance by the Art Theater
(E. Solomonidou Balanou, 1962, source: Kathimerini)



231. New Literary and Culture magazines, published in the '60s
(source: private collection)

In the field of Music, there were significant attempts made by M. Hatzidakis and M. Theodorakis to connect the artistic popular music with new theatrical patterns, (Road of Dreams, Beautiful City, The Song of the dead Brother).

In Music, "the social and aesthetic upheaval" was signaled by the musical setting to the poems "Epitafios" (J. Ritsos), and "Axion Esti" (Od. Elytis) by M. Theodorakis, while M. Hatzidakis, in collaboration with the poet N. Gatsos, had recorded the "Mythology". Both composers ventured a combination of elements from various traditions, in a new search of the "Greek character". Among the recent ones, D. Savopoulos introduced rock music, in a creative adaptation to Greek verse and spirit, while J. Markopoulos also presented, his own personal style.

The "State Theater of Northern Greece" was founded, (1961) and two magazines related to the Theater were published, the annual "Theater" by Th. Kritas under the editor M. Ploritis, and the well known "Theater" by K. Nitsos (Mavromoustakos, 1999).

In the Cinema, which was flourishing in that period, as being an extremely popular recreational activity, the sentimental films, the comedies and musicals were predominant. M. Hatzidakis composed music for the movie "Children of Piraeus" by J. Dassin, which gained him the Oscar prize for Music.

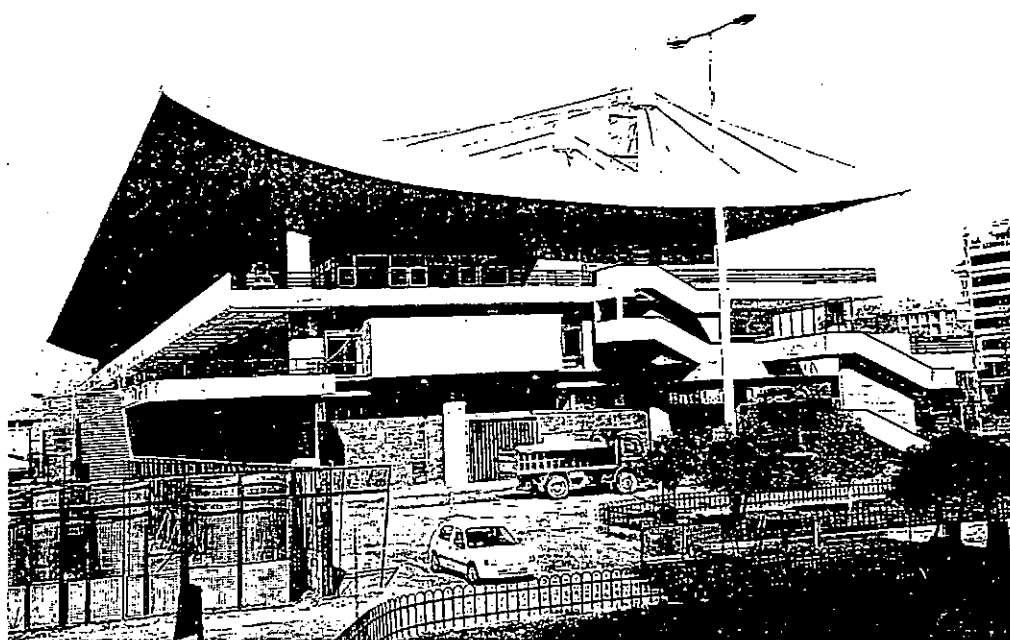
At the same time, new directors appeared, such as T. Kanellopoulos (Sky, Excursion), R. Manthoulis (Face to Face), M. Kakoyannis (Electra), N. Koundouros (Little Aphrodites) (Katsounaki, 1999).

The small bourgeois' mentality became popular satirical element in movies produced by A. Sakellarios, D. Dimopoulos, G. Tzavellas and others, while a tendency of social questioning, with dramatized stories, was evolving.

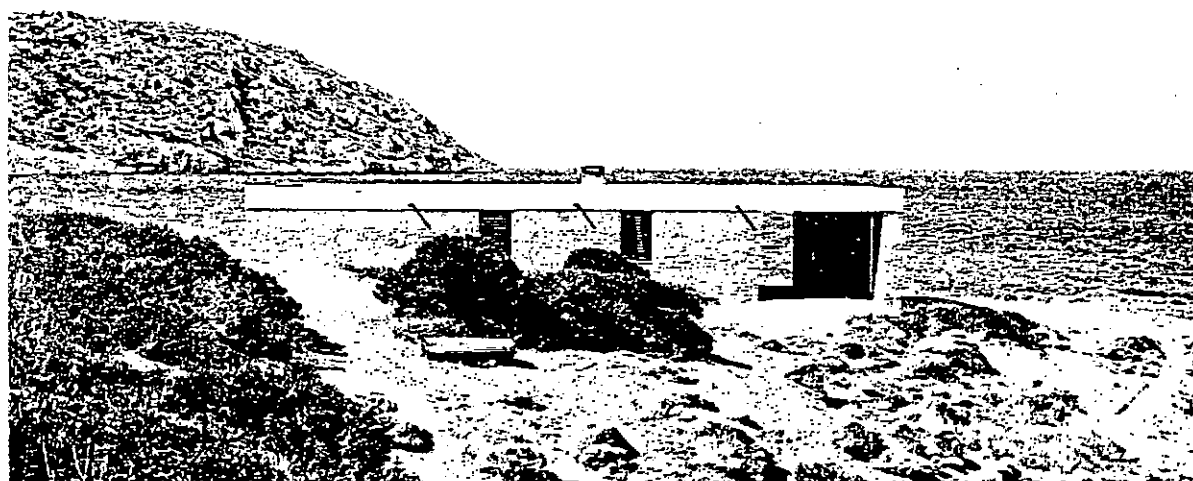
In Architecture, in 1960 the search for a Greek Architecture and the restoration of the tradition, again emerged.

Since the last period of the 50s', Modern trends in Architecture started to be displayed in a more daring manner. Despite the arguments on Greek Character, Modernism of this period was based mostly on foreign "imported" patterns.

Architect K. Laskaris complained that "*we have lost our National memory, under the foreign impact...*" (Kerophylas, 1997), while there were concerns about the repercussion of building construction activity, and the dangers for Greek Landscape. Competent young architects appeared, following the currents abroad, such as the international trend of technical excellence, Van der Rohe's technical monumentality,



232. The new Passenger's station in Piraeus by J. Liapis (1964) (source: author's photograph)



233. Vacation house in Anavissos by A. Constantinidis (1962) (source: Greece, 20th century Architecture)

and Le Corbusier's brutalism. Such directions were followed by architects , Valsamakis, Decavallas, A. Georgiadis, V. Grigoriadis, P. Papazissis, and others (Fessas Emmanouil, 1993).

In this period, significant works constructed, were the museums and EOT hotels, designed by A. Konstantinidis, a combination of exposed concrete and traditional materials and adaptation to the landscape or urban environment, as well as the Lycabettus Open Theater by T. Zenetos, the National Gallery by P. Mylonas and D. Fatouros, the buildings of Salonica University, by K. Fines and K. Papaioannou, and the Passenger Terminal at the Port of Piraeus by J. Liapis and El. Scroubelos. All the above, composed works of meaningful and expressive architecture (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993). On the other hand, cosmopolitan conformism was still expressed by C. Kitsikis, E. Vourekas, C. Kapsabelis, P. Sakellarios, satisfying the mood of the ruling classes.

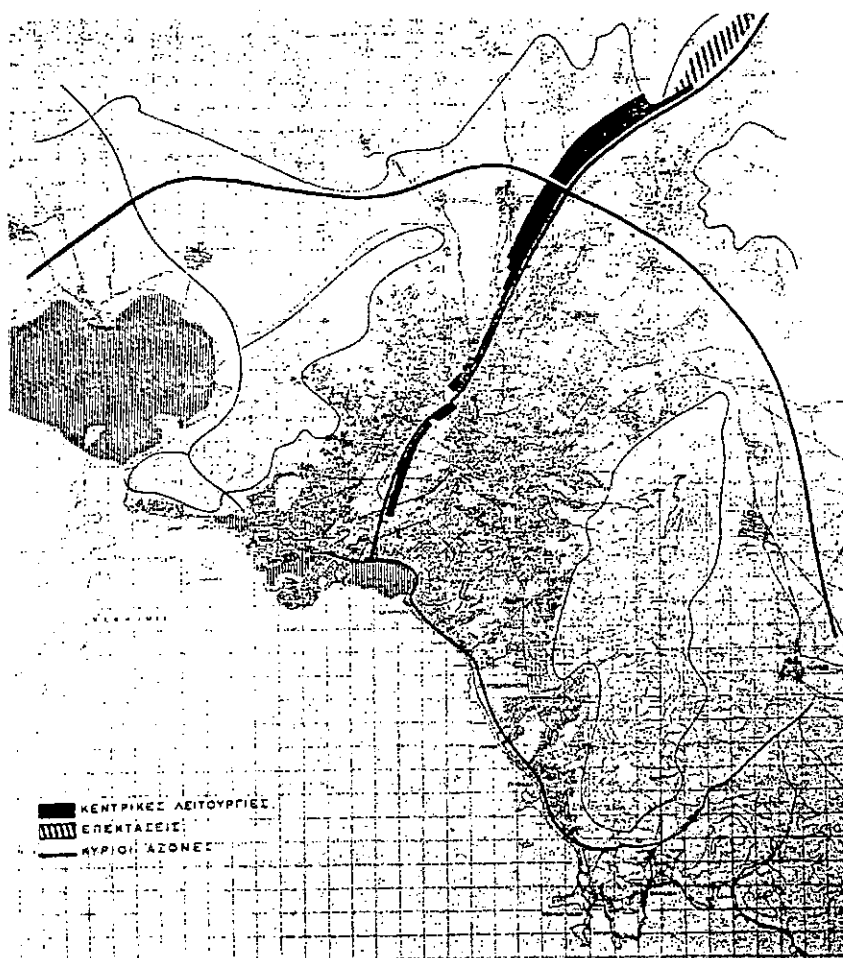
During this period, there was a trend to merge modernism and classicism, as for example in the American Embassy building, (W. Gropius) and in Hilton Hotel (P. Vassiliadis, E. Vourekas, S. Staikos, A. Georgiadis), and the School of Music (J. Despotopoulos), which was the only building of the extensive programme for the Cultural Center of Athens, to be constructed.

However, A. Konstandinidis' anti-monumental work and anti-academic philosophy, rose as a genuine revolution in New Greek Architecture, pursuing a faithful search for an architecture "true and necessary" which adapted to Greece's actual life and culture, considered essential and common matters, and had "sound construction" (Philippidis, 1984).

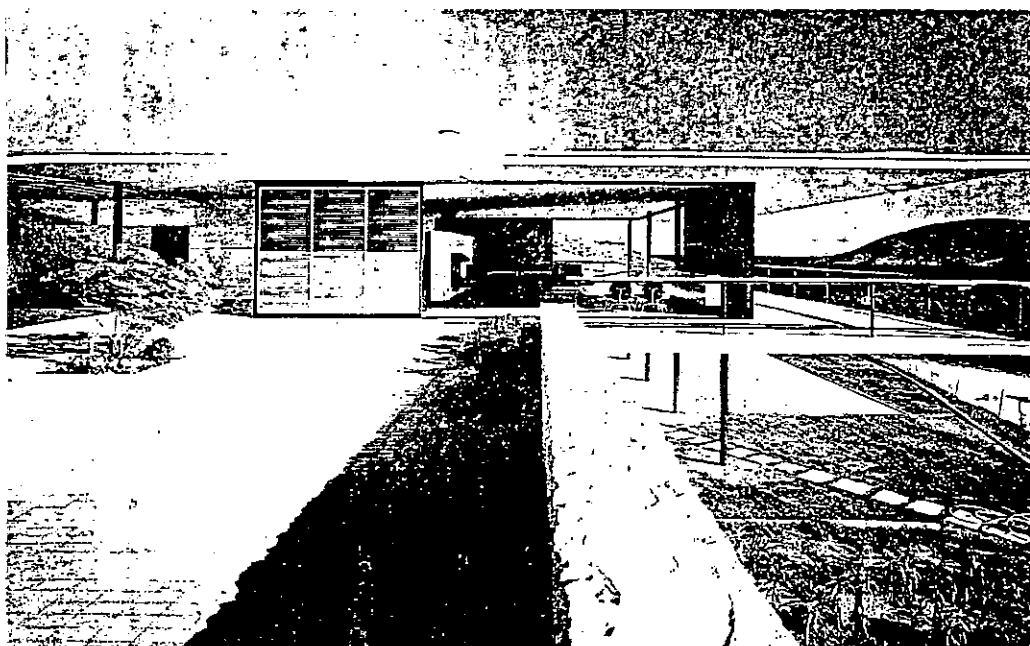
A determinative contribution to the architectural thinking was provided by the Panhellenic Architectural Congresses organized by the Architects' Association. The first three dealt with Urbanism, and the remaining were concerned with problems such as technology, the social role of the architect etc.

The first Congress in 1961, was organized in Delphi, and had as subject "Town Planning – National problem", in which, among others, the idea of Ecumenopolis was presented by C. Doxiadis.

The Second Congress was organized in Salonica, with subject "Popular Housing – Town Planning", in which G. Candilis presented his architectural philosophy, recently applied in Toulouse le Mirail.



234. C. Doxiadis "Strategic Plan" (1960) (source: Greece, 20th century Architecture)



235. Vacation house in Anavissos by N. Valsamakis (1963) (source: Greece, 20th century Architecture)

In 1963, the 3rd Panhellenic Architectural Congress took place in Nafplion, with subject "The Contribution of Architect and Planner, in Country's Development", where the housing problem and the chaos prevailing in Regional and Urban Planning problems were in the center of questioning by distinguished architects of that period. (Bitsios, Fatouros, Vassiliadis, Kitsikis, Despotopoulos, Provelengios, Kokkoliadis, Zivas and others). They pointed out the anarchy in construction, the lack of organization of Public Services, and the lack of State policy.

The fourth Congress, organized in Patras in 1964, has a subject "Architecture and Technology".

The fifth Congress, organized in Athens in 1965, dealt with the problems in the region of Athens, and has been the most important for issues concerning the city. These congresses were of great interest to society and the Press.

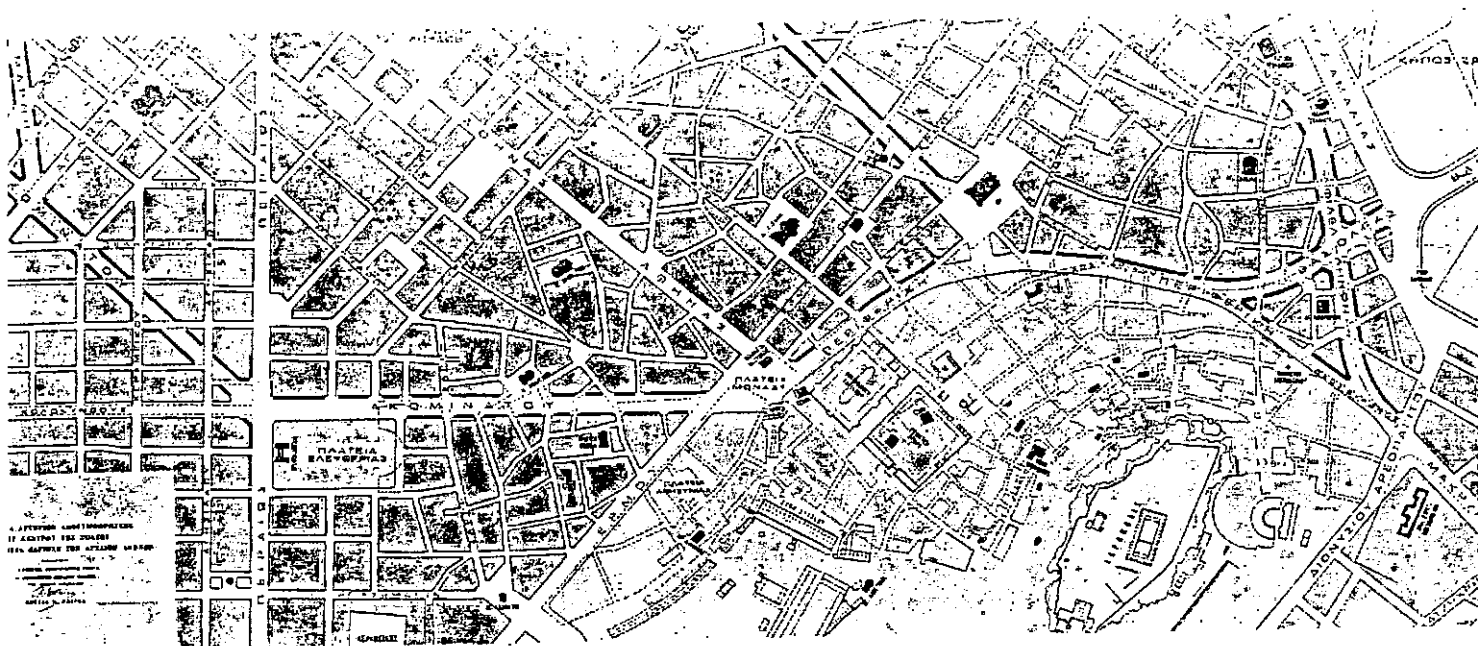
3.4.4. The city

Since 1960, there was an intrusion of large foreign industries, which were installed in the urban centers. In Athens, big industrial units were founded in the Thriasio Field. This event absorbed an amount of labour force, which was settled in new areas of arbitrary housing.

The division of Athens in eastern and western regions, continued to exist. The city Center with Constitution square and the Kolonaki area belonged to the eastern region of the city consisting the "Center of Power".

In the western part there were traditional working areas such as Psiri, Gazi, Metaxourgio, Kolonos, Sepolia, the refugees' regions of Tavros, Dourgouti, N. Ionia, N. Philadelphia, and the new working class areas in extension of the latter ones, which, initially with arbitrary construction, reached to foots of Egaleo and Parnitha mountains : Petroupoli, Peristeri, Egaleo, Liossia, Haidari, Menidi. The arbitrary constructions had been approximately estimated at 3870 in 1945, and 50.000 in 1955. This phenomenon would continue until the end of the century (Biris, 1996).

The situation was aggravated with the establishment of "building cooperatives", which through legal procedures, transformed the rural areas into building sites, with private urban plans, but with insufficient road networks, open public spaces and social infrastructure.



236. Plan for the extension of Philhellene street (source: Biris 1996)

Simultaneously, the perception of the Greek Administration changed with regards to matters related to Space. In this period, a number of Town Plans were elaborated, making provision for industrial zones, and taking precautions for the future development of the city.

Since 1962, the Universities and private companies were assigned studies of Regional or Urban Planning. In the context of arguments among the Technical World about the aggravated circulation problem, the study of the circulation problem of Athens, was confined to the American office W. Smith (1962 – 1965) without following an approved Urban Plan.

At the beginning of the '60s, the company "Doxiadis Associates" started to deal with Greek space. C.Doxiadis' publication titled "Our Capital and its Future" reversed the simplified approaches and made interventions and proposals. In 1964 "Doxiadis Associates" office was charged with four Town Planning Studies.

The tremendous demands for shelter, due to the urban attraction, caused an expansion of Athens, the limits of which changed in rates which were beyond the ability of the State to provide prompt programming measures.

In 1961, Athens had already 1.852.709 inhabitants, and 2.540.241, in 1971. The consequences of the enormous housing demand created new residential areas, in the perimeter of the city.

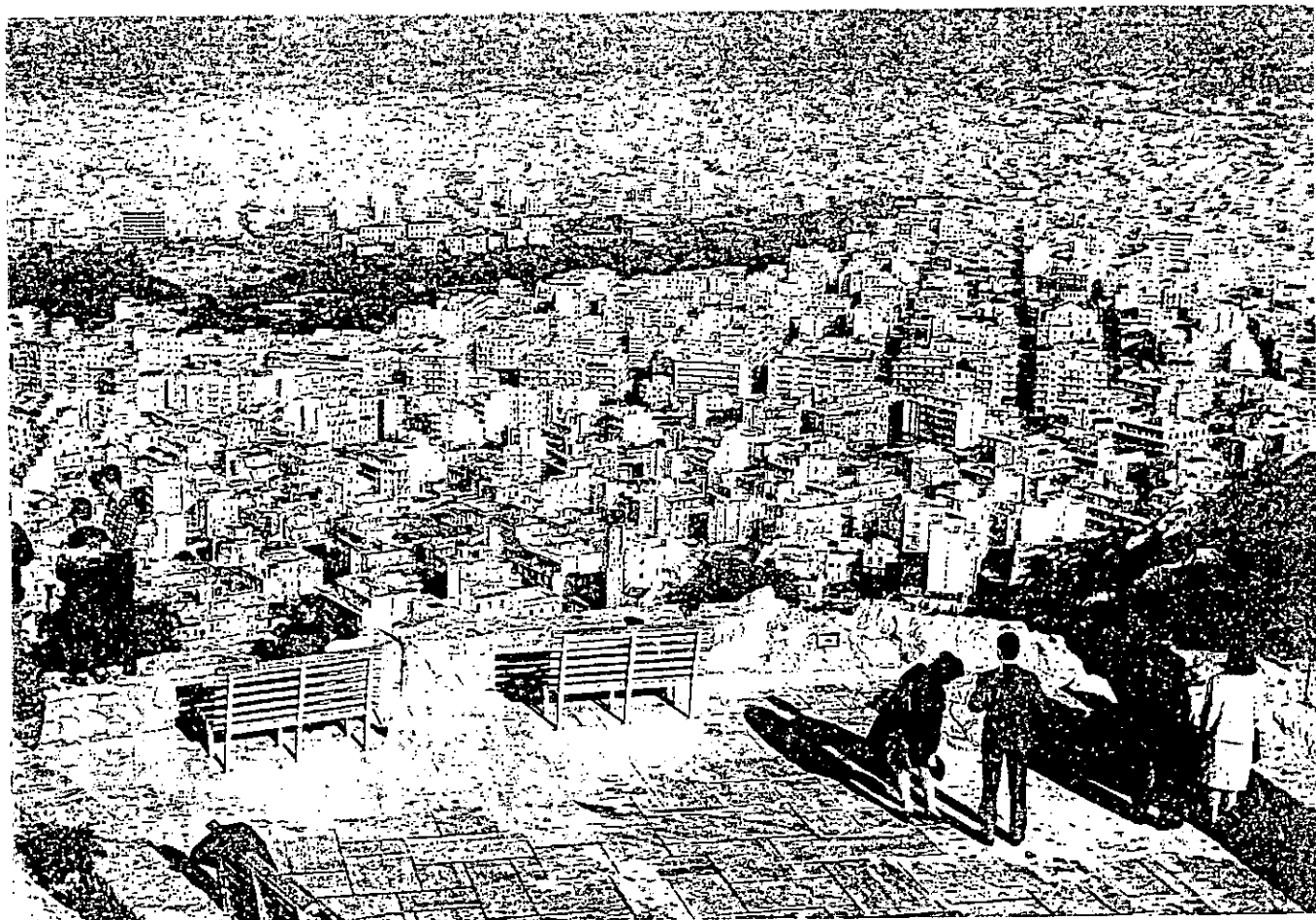
At the same time, private houses with gardens were demolished, in order to be replaced by apartment buildings, offering commercial shelter to prosperous provincials, who tried their luck in the city.

Constructions in this period, composed a significant branch of the secondary sector, the majority of which was the construction of houses.

The annual rate of 340.000³m of building constructions of the decade 1945-1955, was abruptly increased in 1960 by ten times, with a relevant increase of automobile circulation, which took place in the same urban fabric and road widths of the 19th century (Biris, 1994).

The only measure taken by the State in this period, was the extension of the arcades' system in the streets Lenorman, Themistocles' and Sp. Tricoupi.

The presence of the state in city matters, was reduced to the elaboration of Town Plans (many of them were assigned to private offices) without any continuation towards their application.



237. View of Athens from Lycabettus Hill (source: Biris 1996)



238. Panepistimiou street in the '60s (source: author's collection)

Since 1962, the Master Plan, designed by the Ministry of Public Works, under the direction of Pr. Vassiliadis was finally concluded in 1978.

The aim of the Master Plan was the *“adequate organization of various urban functions, in order to achieve a balanced development, for the harmonic living of the inhabitants”*. The concept was the organization of the whole area by separating Habitation Units, (districts), while the density would be controlled and the transportation would be facilitated. Pr. Vassiliadis clarified later, that they attempted to create “cities within the city” towards a multi-centered Athens.

On the other hand, the study of the circulation problem of Athens, commissioned to the company W. Smith (1963), was based on American estimations and specifications, and had promoted the private cars, at the expense of public transportation and at a cost level which was far beyond the existing economic possibilities. It proposed the construction of 16 highway avenues with a total length of 96 Km, costing 3,5 billion drachmas, an amount which at that time was astronomical, and this fact made it impossible (Sariyannis, 2000).

Since this period, the first discussions were held for the construction of an underground train (Metro). This work would be executed many years later. Ilissos river has been covered in its whole length and converted into a central artery (Michalacopoulou, Vas. Constantinou, Kallirois). The arbitrary refugees' settlement which was built in Ilissos river's bed since 1923, were expropriated and demolished.

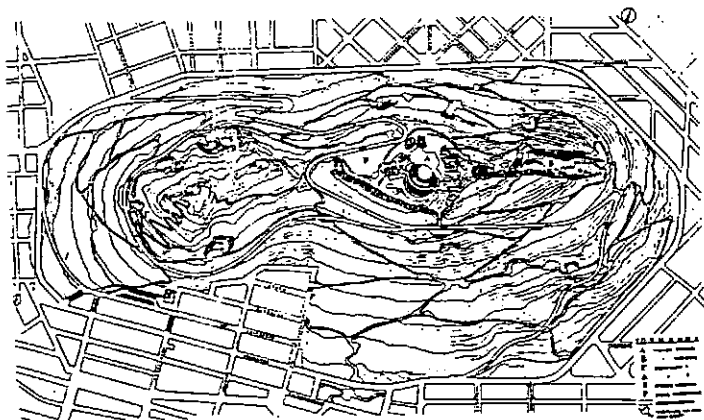
The transformation of Athens, from a neoclassical low density city, to a city full of apartment buildings, caused reactions by intellectual people, but without any results.

However, in the Sub Ministry of Housing, a study on the preservation of a part of the old city, (Plaka) has been elaborated by determining excavation zones, buildings to be preserved, and embellishment works. Especially, since 1965 the “Plaka Office” was founded, in order to study the various problems and propose measures for its preservation (Papageorgiou – Venetas 1996).

In 1966, the 5th Panhellenic Architectural Congress was organized with its subject being the city of Athens, in which four major proposals were presented.

Pr. Vassiliadis, director of the Housing Service of the Ministry of Public Works, presented a Master Plan for Athens with regional centers, aiming at the decentralization of the city.

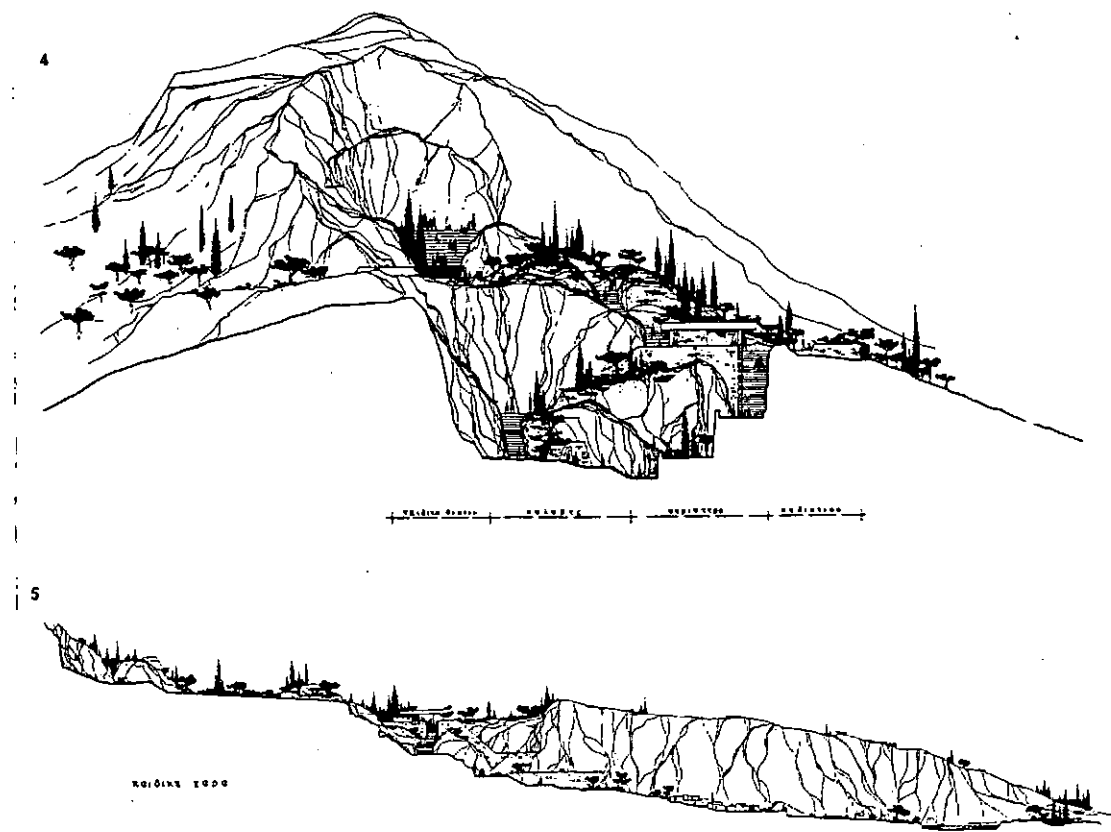
C. Doxiadis presented the study designed by his office, proposing the shifting of the Administration Center to the northern part, in the Tatoi area, a new airport in Tanagra,



239. Proposal for Lycabettus Hill Landscape formation (1967) (source: Architecture in Greece)



240. Proposal for Lycabettus Hill Landscape formation (1967)
(source: Architecture in Greece)



241. Proposal for Lycabettus Hill Landscape formation (1967) (source: Architecture in Greece)

and the development of the entire coastal zone from Megara, to Piraeus. These proposals, were based on estimations of a population of 7.000.000 inhabitants until 2000, which would lead to the creation of an Ecumenopolis and the adequate organization.

The “Company of Economic and Developmental Studies” (EMOKA), proposed a housing development with high rise buildings, according to Le Corbusier’s patterns, and the reformation of the districts in order to provide appropriate living conditions (Sariyannis, 2000). Another well known proposal not presented in this Congress was that by G. Candilis, with the main development along the coast from Piraeus to Sounion and the transfer of the center to the southern area, in Faliro.

Despite all these proposals by architects, and the criticism made by distinguished intellectuals and by the Press, on the city’s problems and the low quality of the built environment, the general political climate was not in favour of generous decisions.

The development of Tourism caused the 750.000 touristic arrivals in 1963, and this fact led to the operational activity for the construction of hotels, mainly along the Saronic coast (Kerophylas, 1997).

During the same period, many Athenians having satisfied their need for shelter, tried to obtain a vacation house along the coasts of Attica. This was the beginning of arbitrary construction in these areas, with all its related problems, leading to further abuse of the natural environment.

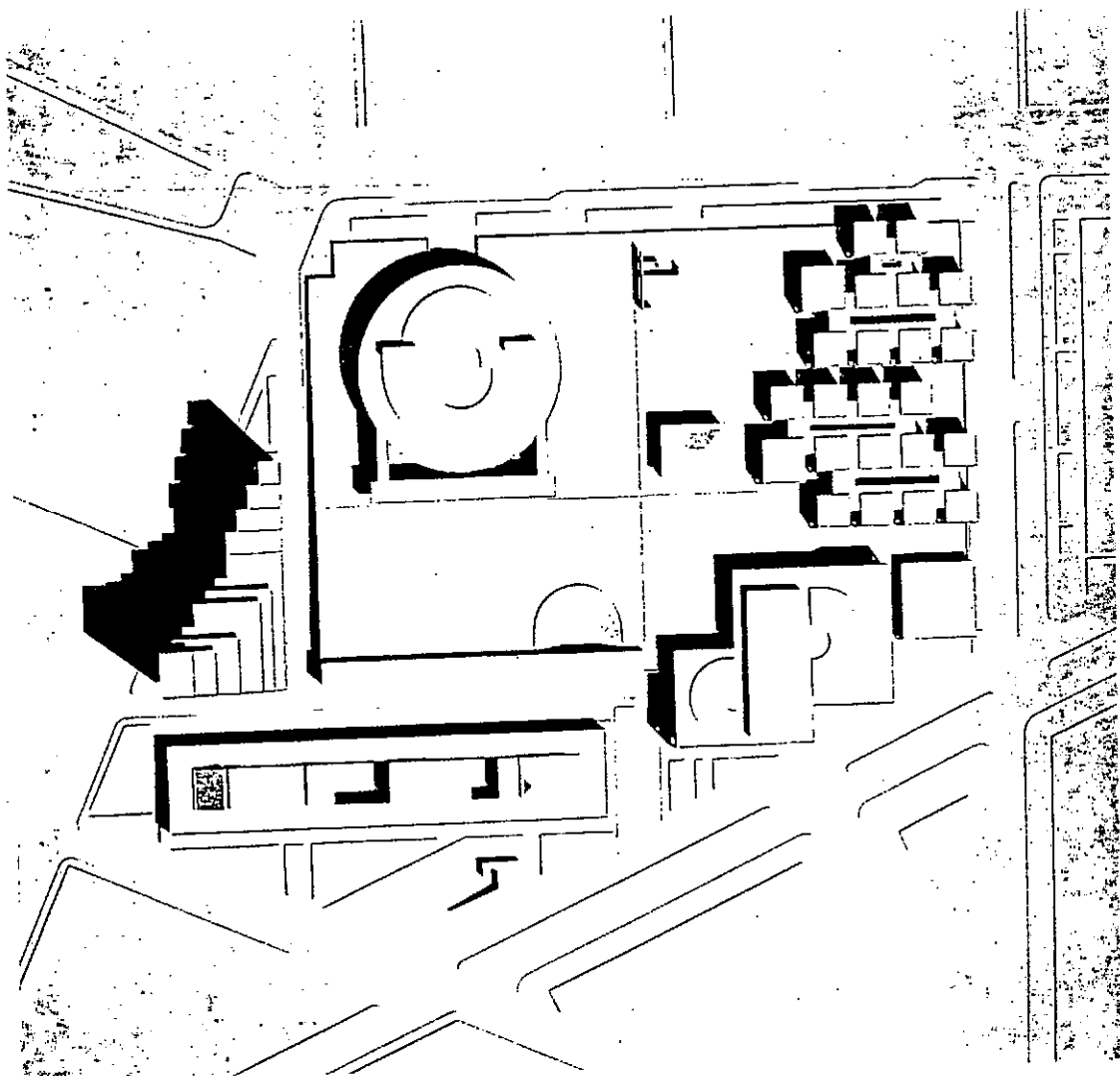
The worsening of the circulation problems in the city center led to the decision of the construction of an underground parking area, under the level of Klafthmonos square, despite the objections made by the Municipality of Athens.

In 1964, the historic railway Athens – Lavrion, which had operated for the first time in 1885, and serviced the whole Messogia region until the 2nd War, was dismantled, as it was considered unnecessary, given the increased circulation of private cars.

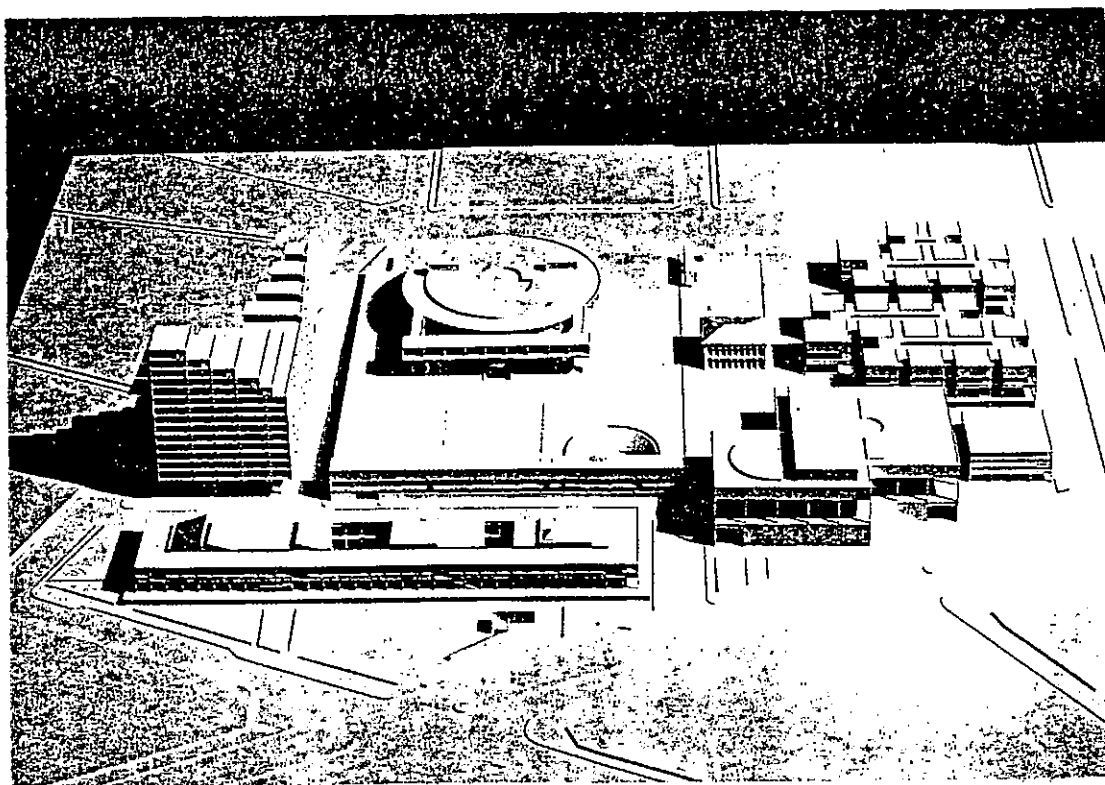
In this period, a spreading of the urban development to the whole area of Messogia took place. The “Albanian” Villages, which the Athenian bourgeoisie looked at with distrust and disdain, were now about to become districts of the capital (Burgel, 1976).

The city also expanded along the southern coast from Paleo Faliro to Glyfada, despite the noise disturbance by the Elliniko airport.

During this decade, the tendencies of the development of Athens of the previous period were stressed, by acquiring a new geographic dimension, i.e. : the industry has



242.J. Despotopoulos' plan for Athens' Cultural Center (1961) (source: Despotopoulos 1997)



243.J. Despotopoulos' plan for Athens' Cultural Center (1961) (source: Despotopoulos 1997)

been set up in the urban area, the administrative activities were concentrated in the city, and the residential areas have been expanded to the sites around the city.

3.4.5. The Public Spaces.

During the first years of the '60s, the circular road around Lycabettus Hill was constructed and with the occasion, the Mayor of Athens A. Tsoukalas announced that the road network was consisting of 1300 Klm, from which only the 300 Klm were asphalt covered. (Kerophylas 1997).

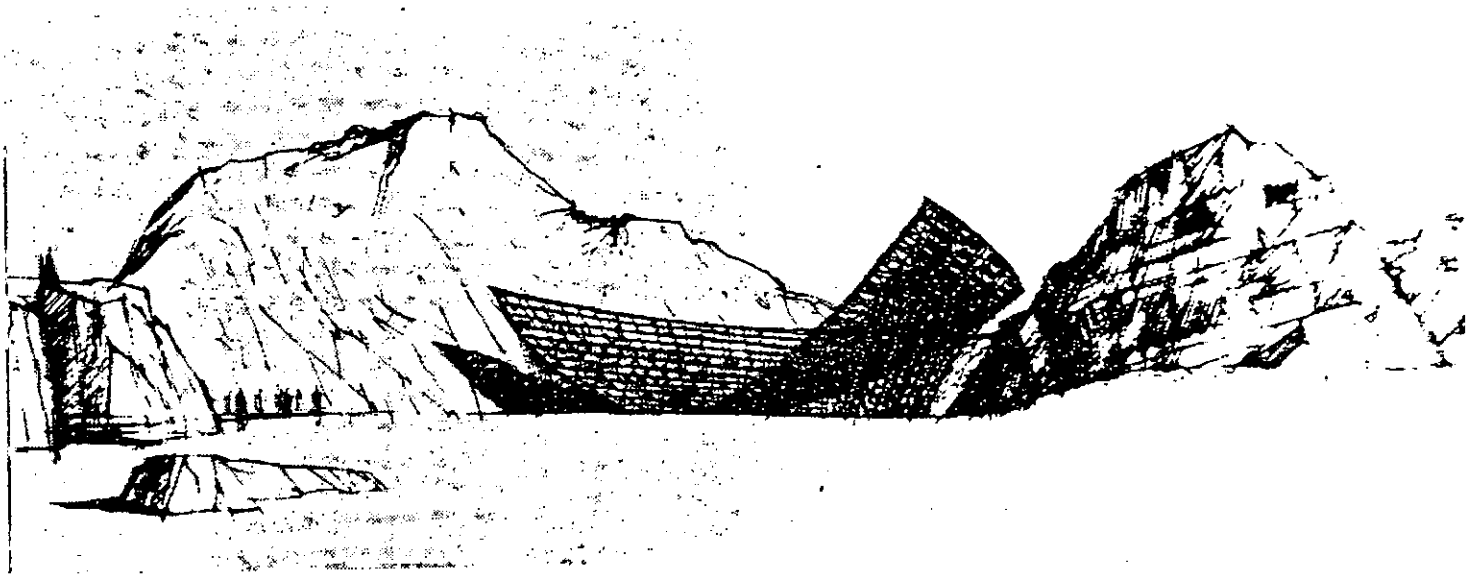
The exploitation of Lycabettus Hill in 1962, with recreation centres and the construction of the "Finicular" railway, became another point of disagreement between the supporters of these ambitious plans (EOT – N. Fokas and Ministry – P. Vassiliadis) and the supporters of the conservation of the environment (Municipality of Athens – K. Biris, and Deanship of Landscape – A. Siagas, D. Pikionis). D. Pikionis especially, with his known respect to the Attic Landscape, asked for only *"some shadowy retreats, some views, common, not foreign"* (Kerophylas, 1997).

The Architects' Association raised their objections too, and asked for architectural competition, but they were unable to prevent the constructions. Another architectural competition, related to Lycabettus Hill was announced in 1967, (1st prize G. Leonardos, L. Kalyvitis), but the winning proposal, which was characterized by the careful intervention on the Landscape, was not realized (Philippidis, 1984).

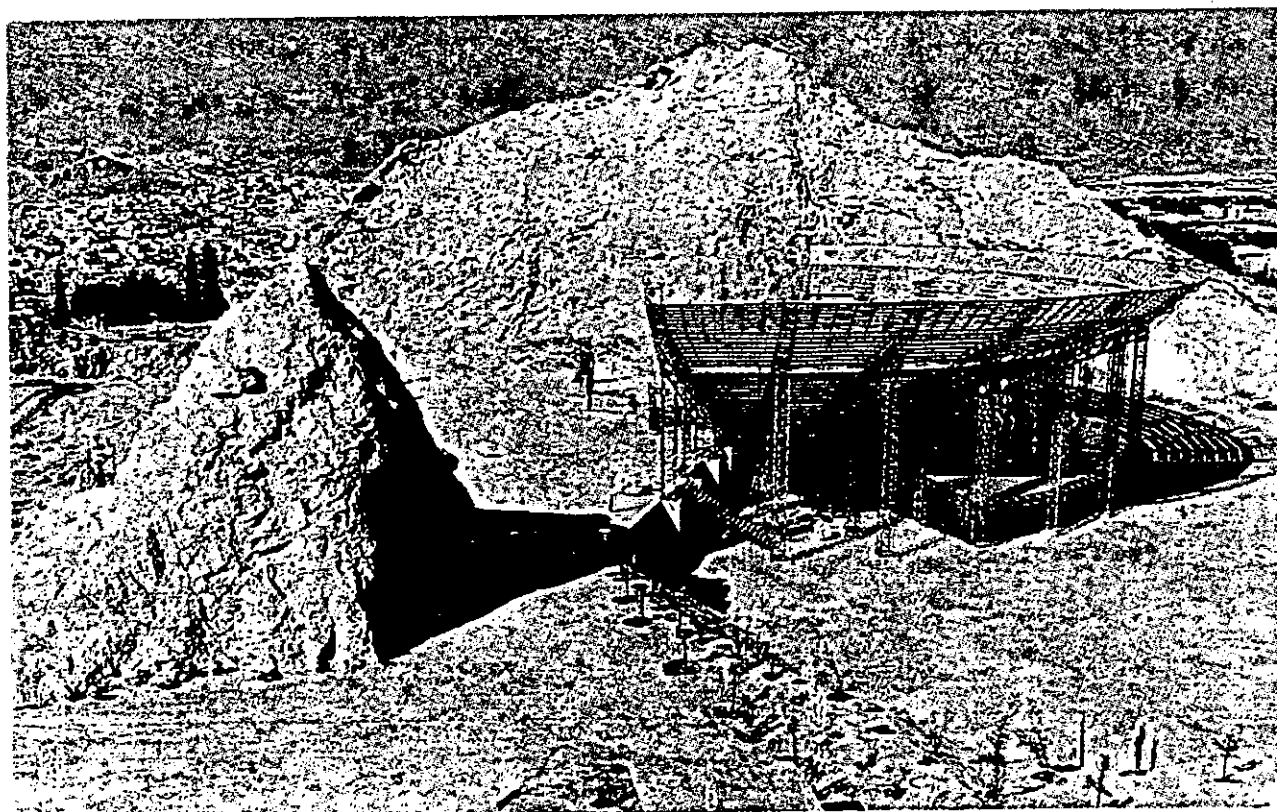
In 1963, the works in Omonia Square were completed.

Another significant Public Space was the Cultural Center of Athens, for which, J. Despotopoulos won the 1st prize in the architectural competition in 1961, but it was never completed.

The proposal composed of an immense platform – square, which occupied the whole space, between the roads of Vas. Sofias, Vas. Constantinou and Rigillis, excluding the natural Landscape, with buildings interrelated by strict geometric relationships and rich morphological expression. The cultural functions proposed, would cause intense concentration of people such as Museum, Gallery, Theater, Library, Concert Hall, School of Music. This was a square with cultural and historic interest, consisting



244. Sketch for the Lycabettus Theater (T. Zenetos, 1963, source: Ministry of Culture 1989)



245. The Lycabettus Theater by T. Zenetas (1964) (source: author's collection)

the central core of the city. From the whole programme, only the School of Music has been constructed so far.

In 1965, the Ministry of Public Works permitted the operation of shops in the main avenues of Alexandras, Syngrou, Patission and Kifissias. In this way, the character of these main road axes changed, and became commercial in short time. This has been the beginning of evolution of linear commercial centers along circulatory axes. In 1965, EOT (Turism) decided the construction of an open Theater of 5.000 seats on Lycabettus hill, in the site of a former quarry. The architectural design by T. Zenetos, proposed an independent metal construction for the theater, which was beautifully combined with the environment of blasted rocks. Since then, the place has been one of the most favoured of Athenians for festival activities in the summer.

In 1965, the announcement of the creation of new University Campus in Kessariani area, caused the vivid reactions of the Architects' Association for the destruction of the Athenian Landscape, "*the most splendid, historic and human Landscape of the world*". (Provelengios, 1965).

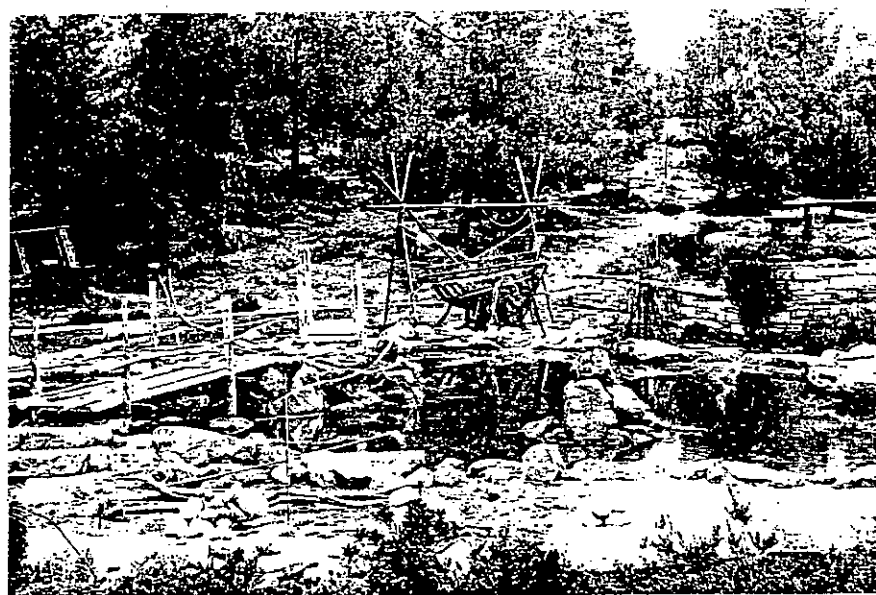
According to a study about the greeneries of the city in 1966, showed the lack of green spaces in the city of Athens that had 4296 inhabitants per hectare of green areas, in comparison to 1000 inhabitants in London, and 1354 in Paris, while the green areas were 2500 hectares before the War, and only 325 hectares in 1966 (Kerophylas, 1997), due to the deforestation of the mountains, the hills and the open areas around the city, with unfavorable consequences for the microclimate and the living conditions of the city. In the first months of 1967 (before the military coup), the items of Landscape and Green Areas, have been brought up again by the "Deanship of Landscape and Cities, and the "Friends of the Forest Union", who caused interventions in order to preserve whatever had been remained of green areas and open spaces, from businessmen, land grabbers, cooperatives etc.

In 1963, an exhibition had been organized by the "Deanship of Landscape and Cities", as a protest to the continuing operation of quarries, a crusade against the destruction of the Attic Landscape. Despite these protests, the quarries continued to operate for a long time and the Deanship of Landscape and Cities would continue to object, even against the dictatorship authorities.

According to data by measurements, the areas of green spaces in stremmas in the city, in 1965, were in total 3185 stremmas (1stremma = 1000m²).



246.Children's playground by D. Pikionis (1965) (source: Pikionis' Works)



247.Children's playground by D. Pikionis (1965) (source: Pikionis' Works)



248.Children's playground by D. Pikionis (1965)
(source: Pikionis' Works)



249.Children's playground by D. Pikionis (1965)
(source: Pikionis' Works)

Large open spaces, created by the removal of military camps, demolished refugees' settlements etc, were scheduled for building instead of being scheduled as groves or Open Public Spaces.

Such cases are the "Palace of the Friends of Music", the Officers' Apartment buildings, and the Open Space behind the American Embassy, kept intact empty for security reasons, as well as the "Rizari Triangle" scheduled for a Cultural Center, etc. In 1966, the Biennale of Sculpture was organized in Philopappou Hill, by G. Candilis.

A great number of sculptures by some of the most distinguished international artists had been exposed in the natural landscape of Philopappou Hill, adjacent to Pikionis' works and this has been a significant event, relating international Sculpture of great value with the Attic Landscape.

Reviewing this period, we conclude that despite it was a politically unsettled period, the economic and social evolution resulted in a flourishing development in Arts and Literature.

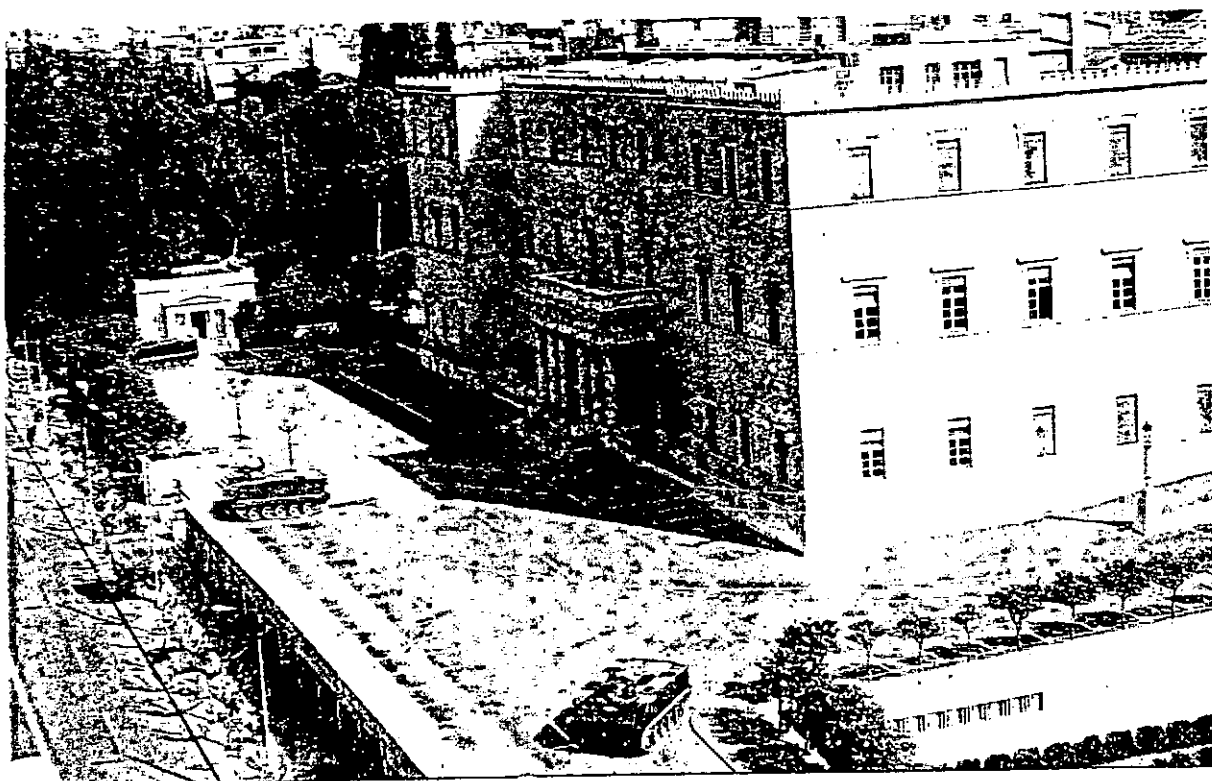
During this period, a turn is noticed in the perception of Open Public Spaces, somehow related to natural Landscape.

Following the precedent period of the formation of green spaces surrounding the Acropolis, in this period there were attempts to combine the formation of city's Open Public Spaces with Green areas and Cultural Functions.

Examples of such areas are, the planning of the large Cultural Center in the former garden areas along Ilissos river, with the creation of a cultural "Agora" space, as the focal point of the entire complex, by expelling the natural landscape, an historical one. Other Public Space was the planning for the formation of Lycabettus Hill with recreational and cultural activities and the formation of Philopappou Hill with the organization of an international Sculpture exhibition.

However, these formations were not completed to a satisfactory point.

At the same time, there was a deep concern about the continuing damages to the natural landscape caused by still operating quarries.



250. Tanks in the Parliament building, in Constitution Square, on the 21st April 1967

(source: Kathimerini)

3.5. ATHENS DURING THE PERIOD OF DICTATORSHIP (1967 – 1974)

3.5.1. General

On 21st of April 1967, a military coup, led by a group of army officers, (G. Papadopoulos, S. Patakos, N. Makarezos), resulted in a military take-over of power.

The Constitution and the country's Democratic institutions were abolished. The dictatorship did not have any connection with the social and political problems of the country, and was not supported by the Greek people and the majority of the political world.

In this way, on one hand a resistance against the regime was organized, which reached a climax with the Polytechnic uprising, on 17th November 1973, and on the other, a sector of the political and business world started to collaborate with the regime (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

Gradually, the "National Government" strengthened its national position by imposition, and internationally, by its recognition by many countries, even by some democratic ones.

For instance, on 22nd June 1967, the vice president of USA, R. Nixon, visited Greece as a "formal" recognition of the regime.

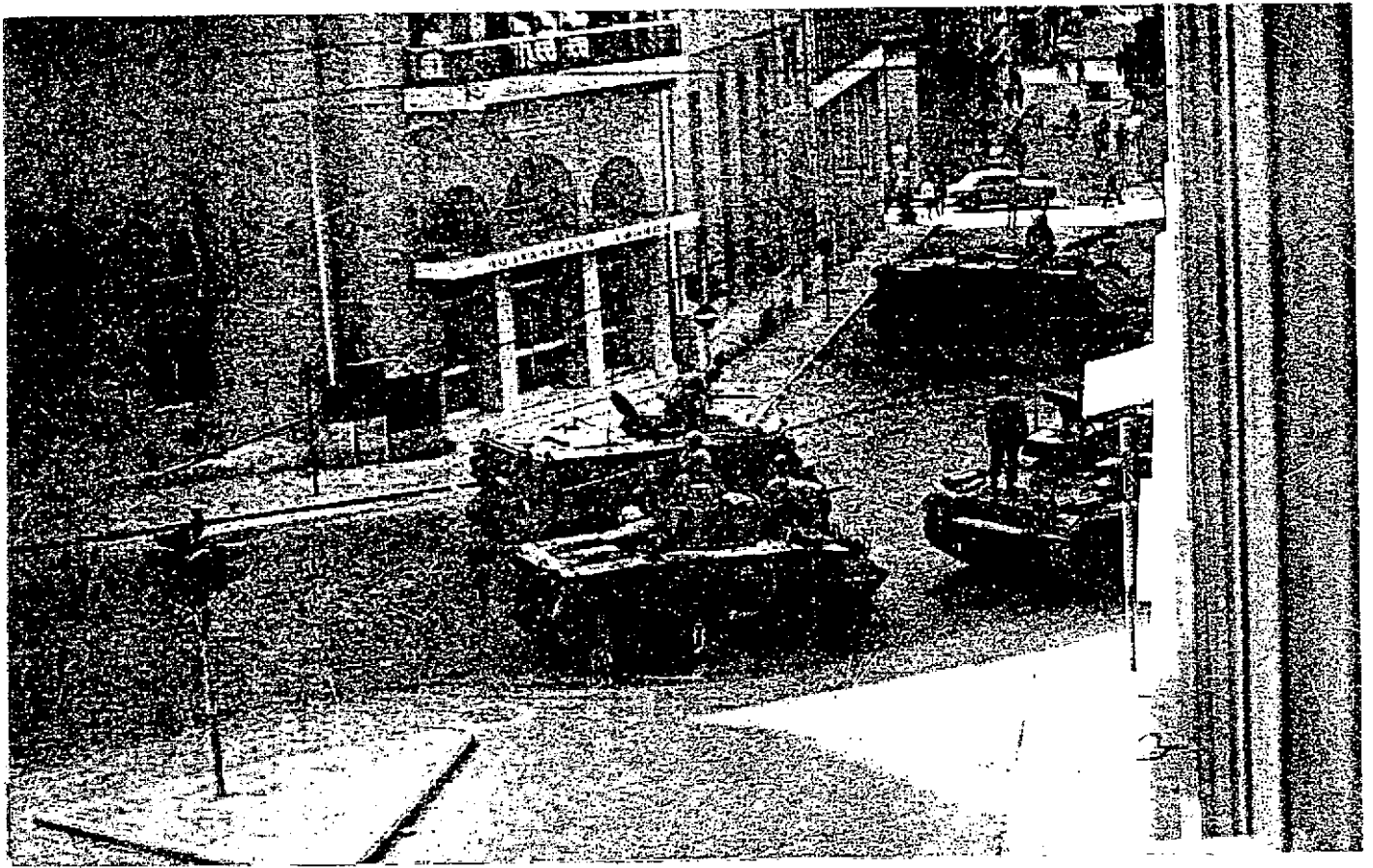
On 13th December, a coup was made by the King, but it failed within 24 hours, causing the King and his family to escape abroad.

Since the beginning of the dictatorship, the political setting was characterized by resignations, prosecutions, convictions, displacements, protests, in Greece and abroad, abolishments of political formations and organizations, and also creation of new ones.

At the same time, there were intense political developments. In 1967, the anti-dictatorship students' movement "Rigas Ferreos", and the Patriotic "Anti-dictatorship Front", were founded.

In 1968, the Communist Party (KKE) was split, the "Panhellenic Liberation Movement (PAK)" was founded by A. Papandreou, in Sweden, and the "Democratic Defense" and Communist Youth (KNE) were also founded, while political trials started at the Extraordinary Court-Martial.

In the same year, the possible biggest, attempt was made against the regime, by Al. Panagoulis, who was arrested and condemned. A "referendum" was organized



251. Tanks of the "rebels" in Piraeus street, on the 21st April 1967 (source: Kathimerini)

for the new Constitution by G. Papadopoulos under extreme measures, while the European Council expelled Greece (1969). At the same time, the countdown began for the complete disarmament of the Cypriot Republic, with the withdrawal of the division which G. Papandreou had installed there (Papaconstantinou, 1999). A number of attempts were also made to overthrow the Archbishop Makarios, who was an obstacle to the junta's plans for a divisional solution of the Cypriot issue.

In 1970, the EEC ceased negotiations for Greece's entrance into the Common Market, until democracy would be re-instated.

In September 1971, the funeral of poet G. Seferis turned into a protest against the regime, while in December, the lifting of the martial law from the beginning of the new year, was announced as a political move. (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

In February 1973, a student sit-in at the Law School of Athens took place, as a protest for a legislative decree. It was repeated in a broader scale in March, giving rise to public feeling.

Since the beginning of 1970, the problems began to appear in the economy, which was characterized by a "laissez faire", approach (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

The juntas intense expansionist economic policy, aiming to increase the growth rate of production with unlimited loans, provided for Turistic development and Housing, and the uncontrolled financing of enterprises, caused the fast increase of inflation (30% in December 1973) and such a strain on the economy, to an extent that would have repercussions on the Greek economy for the next 25 years. During the dictatorship, the National Debt has been increased by eight times.

The monetary instability in Europe in 1972, met a Greek economy that was unprepared and faltering. The economic aggravation was followed by intense doubts concerning the regime (Karakoussis, 1999).

The economy issue worsened with the international oil crisis in 1973, which heralded the start of the country's de-industrialization.

In May 1973, a revolt broke out in the Navy, headed by royalist officers, but it was immediately repressed. In June, G. Papadopoulos abolished monarchy and was sworn President of the Democracy, cancelled the martial law and attempted a "political turning" of the regime, with S. Markezinis as his Prime Minister.

On 15 November 1973, students seized the Polytechnic (National Technical University of Athens), with the support of thousands of people that streamed into the



252. American Vice-President Stryro Agnew with the "leader" G. Papadopoulos, during his supporting visit in 1971 (source: Athens' Ekdotiki)

area. On the 17th November, military forces burst into the buildings, resulting in the deaths of a number of students.

These events and the general outcry, led to the fall of the junta (Delastic, 1999).

The developments caused G. Papadopoulos to be overthrown by the brigadier Ioannidis, who posted F. Gizikis as President of the Democracy.

After an unsuccessful attempt for the murder of Archbishop Makarios, a coup in Cyprus took place on 15th of July 1974, a fact that led to the landing of Turkish armed forces and the occupation of the northern part of the island.

In July 1974, following the events in Cyprus, and the foreign intervention, C. Karamanlis was called in, to form the Government of National Unity. He reinstated the Constitution of 1952 with all its provisions, with exception to those belonging to the previous regime. In this way, the period of the seven year dictatorship was closed, having caused so many trials to the country, and by general consent, having produced a distressing regression of political affairs (Papaconstantinou, 1999).

3.5.2. The Social Structure

The Greek dictatorship was not only a product of American intervention, because a decisive element in the abolition of Democracy was the intolerance of those in power for any change in the obsolete and irrational socio-economic structure of the country.

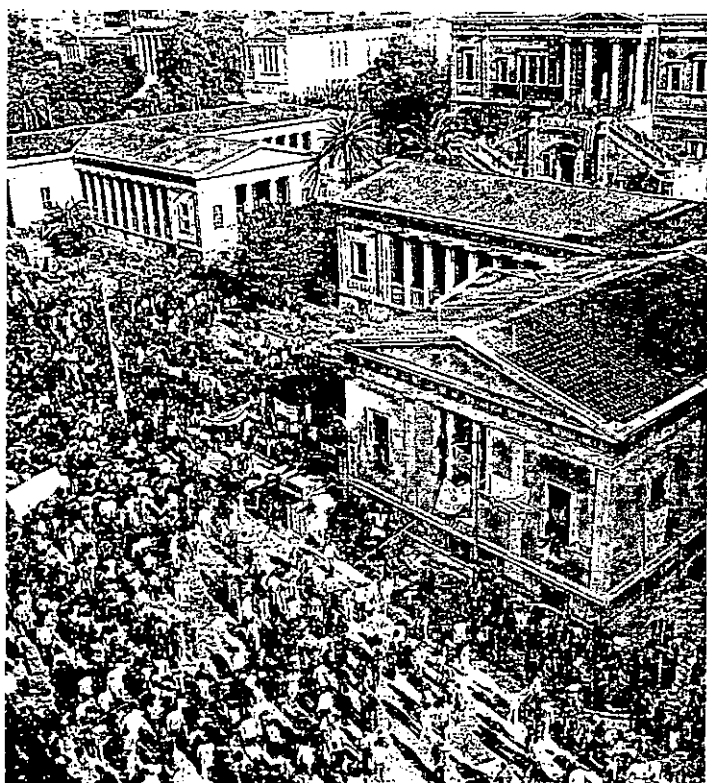
When the political crisis of 1964 burst out, the bourgeoisie faced a significant dilemma: to retreat or to resort to violence. The selection of the second was inevitable, considering the power and the ideological tendencies of the Greek ruling class.

However, the resistance of the majority of society to the dictatorship, had many sides, because not only the core of the post War Social organization, but also the democratic procedures were threatened. At the same time, the legitimization of democratic procedures and their acceptance by the majority of the society, consisted the main reason why, the dictatorship was unable to be legalized (Haralabis, 1999).

During this period, the emigration flow, which had started in 1945, after a drop in 1966, again increased, mainly directed towards W. Europe and especially W.



253. Students during the sit-in in Law School in February 1973 (source: Kathimerini)



254. People gathering in the Polytechnic University to support students and protest against the junta in November 1973 (source: Kathimerini)



255. People gathering in the Polytechnic University to support students and protest against the junta in November 1973 (source: Kathimerini)

Germany. At this time, many students and scientists were added to the emigrants, who left their country as political refugees.

Many Athenian families faced problems, as some of their members had to leave against their will, for political reasons. During the period 1955 – 1977, 1.236.290 people have emigrated, according to the National Statistics Service. The emigration had serious impacts on economy and the job market, as since 1960, a lack of labour hands was noticed in agriculture, cattle farming and in other fields of the economy such as the construction. This lack of manpower, caused the admission of “cheap” foreign labour from Africa or Asia.

The majority of emigrants, did not acquire professional training, while they faced difficulties in their adaptation to the new social environment and in the preservation of their cultural identity.

The crisis of European economies decreased emigrants’ possibilities of employment as foreign working capital, which led to the phenomenon of the repatriation of Greek emigrants, between 1973 and 1980.

In 1971, Athens, in the broader sense, was a city of workers and intellectuals: 45% were manual workers, and 28% employees (Burgel, 1976).

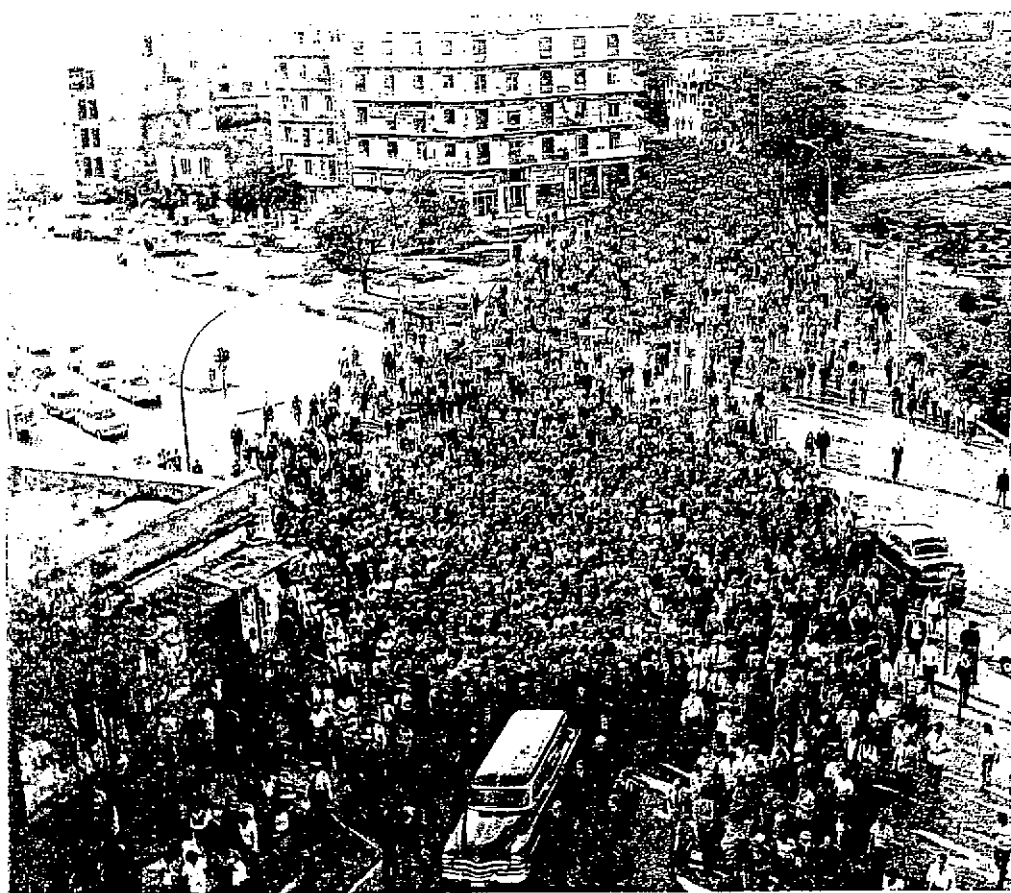
The alteration of the socio – cultural situation of Greece, was associated with a dull political climate. This fact led to a gradual evolution of a contemporary ethos and a movement towards technocratic capitalism and the rise of the lower middle classes.

3.5.3. The spirit of the times

Since the beginning, it was obvious that the country entered in a long period, of a neo-fascist regime prevailing on a confused ideology, guided by “Greek – Christian” patterns. The regime attempted to exploit the glorious past and religion, trying to create a naive ideological orientation.

The basic peculiarity of this regime was considered to be “technical”, in contrast to its “sociological” character, i.e. violence had an autonomy from all social issues and social forces. Moreover, this regime lacked the determinative ingredients of a fascist reality (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

Initially it was not easy to expect resistance by the people, when they were confronted with tanks, prisons, prosecutions and terrorism. In the area of Education,



256. The funeral of G. Seferis in 1971 (source: Historic Album Kathimerini)

the dictatorship ended the Reformation of 1964 and limited operation of instructors and students organizations, applying “*measures of cleansing or restoration of order*” at the Universities (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000). These measures led to the evolution of students’ and youth organizations, connected with party mechanisms (Rigas Ferreos, Democratic Defense and others), while the 30% of professors withdrew.

The centers of Higher Technical Education (KATE) were founded, and the technical – professional branch was expanded.

In Literature and Media, a strict censorship was imposed, causing allusive expressions to flourish as an indirect form of speech. Since the first years of this period, the political situation created an isolated country.

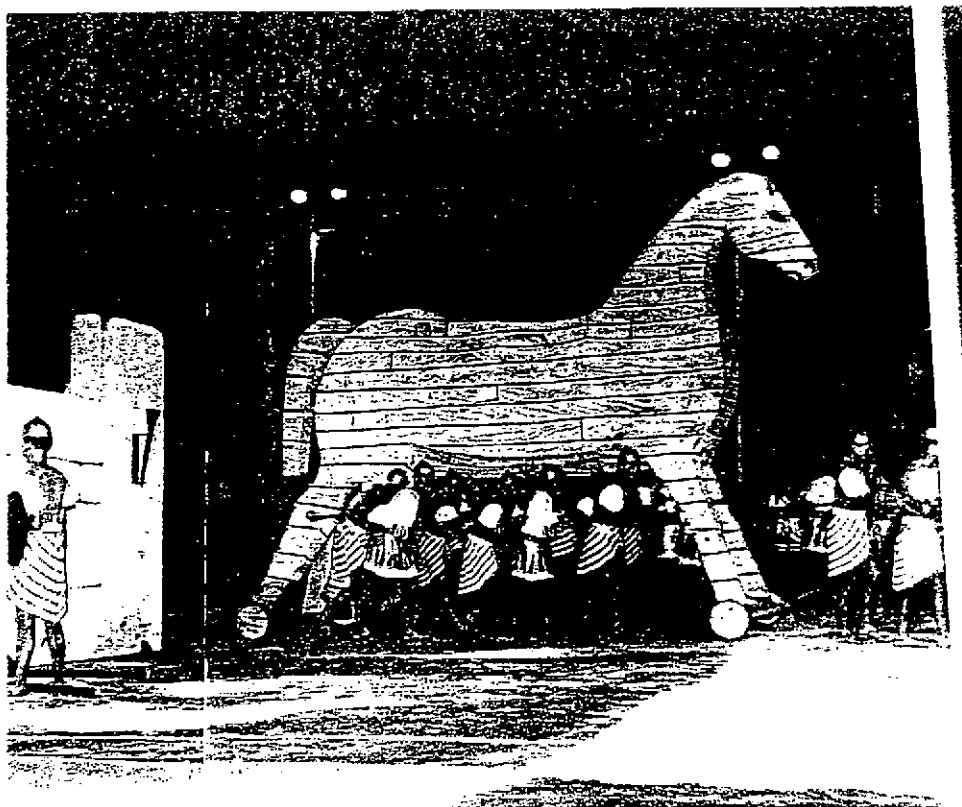
In 1971, the “Eighteen Texts” were published, with resistance messages, a spirit of free expression, and an opening towards the international environment. The prevailing trends of this period, were towards social ideas, historic environment and social relationships (Zitas, 1999).

Till 1970, the most dominant personality in the field of poetry was G. Seferis, whose political attitude, and suggestive language, in a broader sense, sentimentally attracted and subtly implied meanings and attitudes.

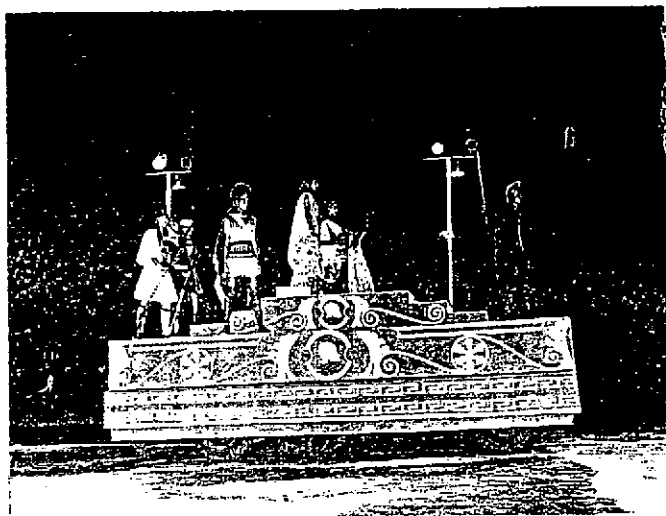
His “Declaration” in 1969, was the first liberal protest made by the intellectual world during the dictatorship.

The most significant works of this period were:

- 1967. R. Roufos : The Greek lings, M. Koumantareas : Sailing, N. Kahtitsis : The heroe of Gend.
- 1968. R. Apostolidis : A2
- 1969. Em. Kriaras : Dictionary of Medieval popular literature.
- 1970. Collective : Eighteen Texts, N. Kasdaglis : Thirst, M. Hakkas : The bidet, N. Pentzikis : Mother Salonica.
- 1971. Od. Elytis : Solar Sun, J. Ioannou : The sarcophagus.
- 1972. A. Frangias : Plague, N. Bakolas : March, Th. Valtinos : The legendary of A. Kordopatis.
- 1973. T. Koufopoulos : Versions.
- 1974. Od. Elytis : Open Papers, E. Averof – Tossitsas : Fire and axe, J. Ioannou : The only heritage, D. Nollas : Fairy of Athens, N. Vrettakos : Ode to the sun, G. Giatromanolakis : Limonario.



257. The Kitsch Cultural events by the junta (source: Historic Album Kathimerini)



258. The Kitsch Cultural events by the junta (source: Historic Album Kathimerini)

In the area of the Theater, performances attempted to accentuate the opposition towards dictatorship regime, expressing the democratic feeling and inspiring a resistance climate.

Performances acquired a political character with the convention of subtle phrases to messages of protest.

Performances and plays as "Our Big Circus" by J. Kambanellis (Karezi – Kazakos, 1973), "The Night Watch man: by Str. Karras (National Theater 1969), "The History of Ali-Retzo" by P. Markakis, (Free Theater 1972), "The nannies" by G. Skourtis (Art Theater, 1972), "Panoramic view of night work" by M. Pontikas (Arcade Theater, 1972) followed the spirit of that period (Mavropoulos, 1999).

In Music, censorship was also catalytic, with a main example the ban made on M. Theodorakis' music. The situation led to the prevalence of amusing "successes" of that period, which attempted to present a climate of prosperity and a carefree life.

The "artistic popular" song became immediately successful to the public and rapidly developed. Two new composers also emerged in this period, with new musical pursuits, rousing the public feelings of the young audience, D. Savopoulos and J. Markopoulos.

The Cinema was at a transitional stage, between the commercial cinema of wide consumption and the novel "New quality Cinema", led by young directors who established a new questioning : Th. Angelopoulos, D. Theos, N. Papatakis, T. Kanellopoulos, and others. Many of the movies underwent hard censorship.

In the Cinema the tendency for the substantial, and the detection of social, political and historic questions, the resistance to the dictatorship and conformism, brought the "New Greek Cinema" to the limelight (Katsounaki, 1999).

Samples of this new tendency were, "Eudokia" by Al. Damianos (1971), the "Days of '36" by Th. Angelopoulos (1972), and "Anne's match" by P. Voulgaris (1972). The production of familiar movies was reduced, and taken over by movies of a theoretical and philosophical character. The Television invaded private life, as a new form of entertainment, influencing habits and mentalities.

In Fine Arts, in 1967, the Zoumboulakis Gallery and the Cultural – Artistic Center "Hour" were founded. The last one, published a yearly review "Chronico". Artists of representative and abstract painting, formed an iconography of protesting content, focusing their polemics on subjects of social and political anarchism,



259. Greek Cinema's comedies in the '70s (source: Kathimerini)

describing situations by demeriting human existence and even using elements of pop art (D. Kokkinidis, V. Kaniaris, V. Kypreos) (Pavlopoulos, 1999).

Architecture presented symptoms of decline, related to International trends, as the loss of interest in functional and ideological matters, the variety of architectural approaches, concerns and fashions led to the Postmodernism. In Greece, there was an extreme approach of “neo – expressionism”, related to the structural or mechanical system (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993).

There was a prominence of imported high – rise buildings and attempts for scientific and systematic design methods, while the anti-rational and low technology tradition of Modernism, continued.

Interesting proposals were made, dealing with unconventional directions by J. Liapis and E. Scroubelos, D. Fatouros, Th. Papayannis and Associates, G. Pantopoulos, S. Molfessis, K. Kyriakidis, H. Papailiopoulos, T. and D. Biris, A. Tombazis, D. and S. Antonakakis.

Another trend was a formalistic and neo – historic approach, combined with high technology, mostly in office buildings (J. Vikelas).

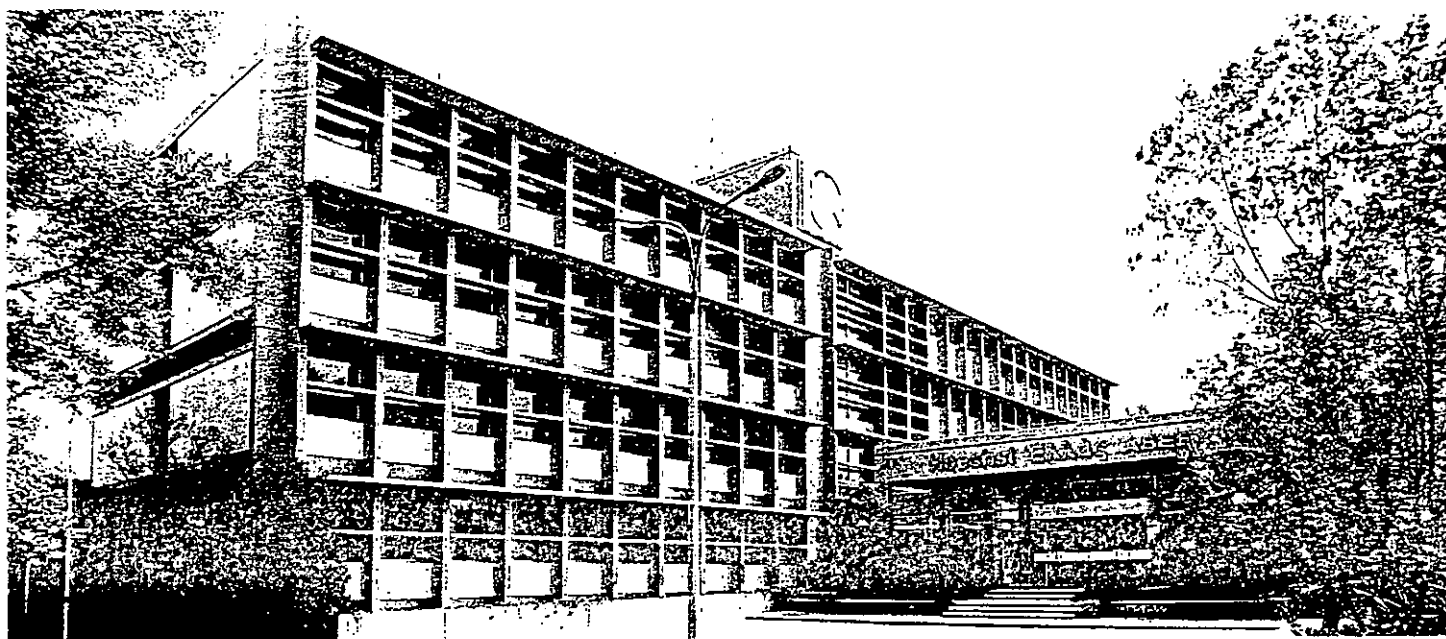
In this period the distancing from modernistic principles is followed by the dropping out of traditionalism. The request for Greek Character stops to be in the center of questioning of Greek architects.

A new, more eclectic approach in architecture was also developed, proposing various blends of international trends and local tradition (N. Valsamakis).

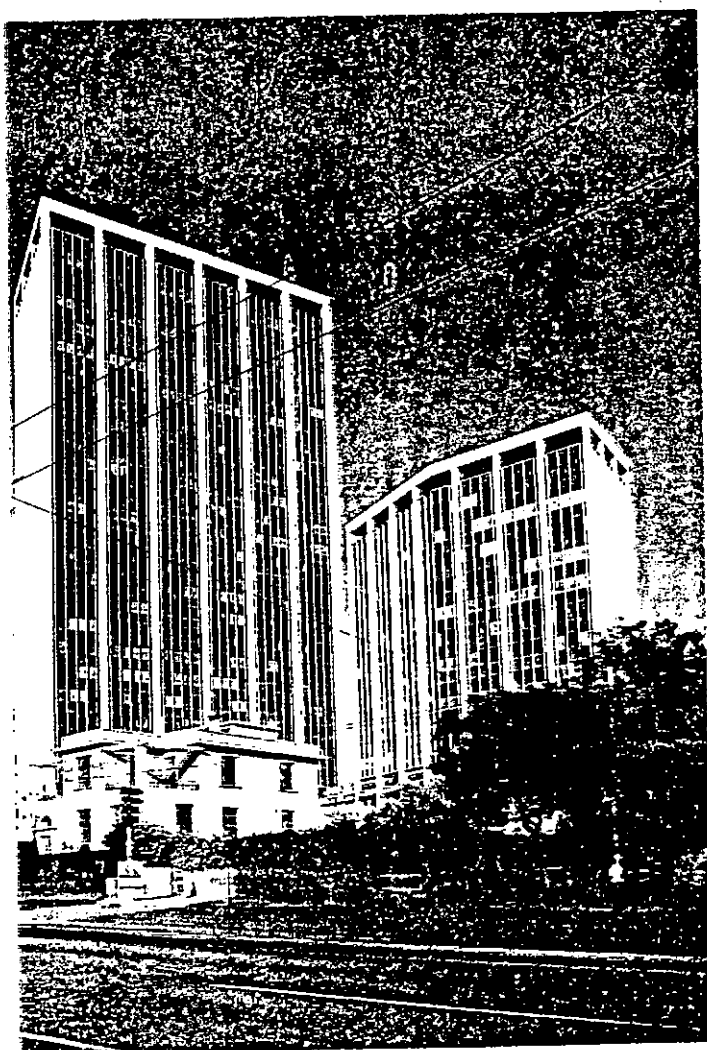
3.5.4. The city

The first economic measures taken by the dictatorship, (abrogation of the unearned increment tax, loans given to building contractors and consumers etc) encouraged construction activity, and in this way, constructions were converted to “promoter” of the economy’s evolution.

Moreover, the “rebels” enacted a remarkable increase of the “Plot Ratio Coefficients” for its reinforcement, in the context of provisions made in order to approach the business world. At the end of the ‘60s, the problem of arbitrary constructions was not localized to the settlements created for the self accommodation of the internal immigrants. The change of the legislative framework (Obligatory Law



260. Pharmacy Industry by Th. Papayannis and G. Pantopoulos (1969) (source: author's collection)



261. The first "sky-scrapers" allowed in Athens by the Dictatorship (source: author's photograph)

7/1967) which permitted the installation of prefabricated houses in small agrarian sites, offered the opportunity to the lower middle classes to acquire holiday residences in the Attica coastal zones.

In this period, the Obligatory Law 395/68 allowed the 20% increase of the "Plot Ratio Coefficient" (the total of building surfaces) and the increase of buildings' height, in comparison to the General Building Regulation of 1972, permitted the construction of the first "towers-blocks" (skyscrapers), which further damaged the city's structure and produced a higher density of the urban fabric and the downgrading of the city environment (Sariyannis, 2000)

The consequences of the application of this law, were the environmental and cultural destruction of the small villages and Athens. Apartment buildings were rapidly built, at the expense of the urban and natural environment, as the Law 395/68 provided an outlet to the pressures made by contractors, to transfer the commercialization of apartments to the suburbs. This fact caused the reduction of green areas, and the increase in the number of private cars, whose circulation led to the increase of the relevant pollution.

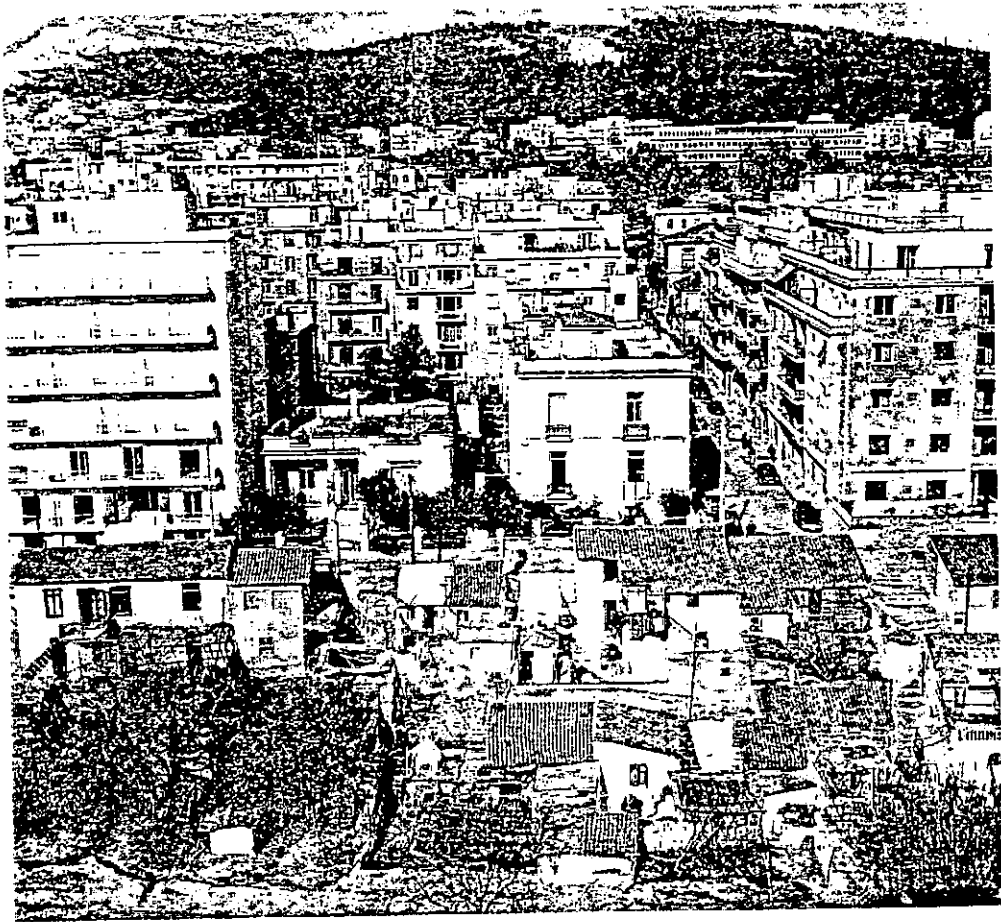
Moreover, the Law 410/68 permitted the legalization of arbitrary constructions in the outskirts of Athens.

In 1972, despite the announcement of the publication of the Master Plan of Athens, the "Regional Plan and Programme for the Capital's Region" was assigned to the "Doxiadis Associates", although these items were related to State's policy, and did not compose items for study by a private office (Sariyannis, 2000).

The proposals made by this plan are already known from the Plan of 1965 : Transfer of the city's center to Tatoi, the creation of an ecumenopolis etc, which had a clear technocratic direction.

At the same time, the Ministry of Public Works continued the preparation of studies, and in 1972 assigned a number of field studies such as, the updating of the study "The Circulation and Transportation study of the Greater Athens Area" (to W. Smith's office), "Study of the Green areas of the Greater Athens Area", "Investigation and studies of the Monuments and Archaeological Sites of the Greater Athens Area", "Economic Analysis of the Master Plan of Athens", "Sociological study of Greater Athens Area" etc (Sariyannis, 2000).

At the same time (1972), other studies, such as the "Study of the Old City of Athens" (Plaka) were also assigned to a group of architects under professor D. Zivas,



262. An arbitrary settlement in Athens' center destroyed in 1967 (source: Philippidis 1984)



263. Athens' city-scape with high-rise buildings in 1974 (source: author's collection)

(was presented in 1978), while the “Study of the Master Plan of Athens” continued to be developed by the Direction of Master Plan until 1978.

The attempt to stimulate the development of Tourism, and the uncontrolled loan provision, combined with the increase of Plot Ratio Coefficients, often resulted in the destruction of the natural environment, in contrast to the ‘60s, when the hotel complexes of EOT, otherwise known as “Xenias”, were much smaller and well adapted to the natural or urban landscape.

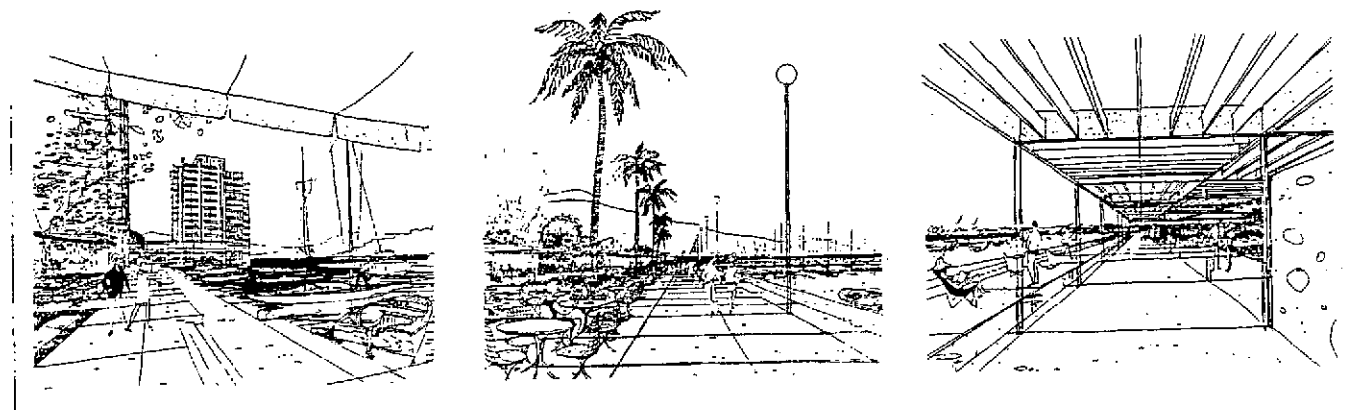
The publication of the legislative decree 1003/71 “On Active Urban Planning”, aimed to attract capitals in the Housing sector and the Law 1262/72 “On the Master Plans of Urban Areas”, aimed to legalize the Master Plan of Athens. Despite the hopes made, it did not manage to influence matters for the better, due to the political situation and the respective mentality (Sariyannis, 2000).

Moreover, by other legislative decrees, it was permitted the installation of industries at the borders of Attica.

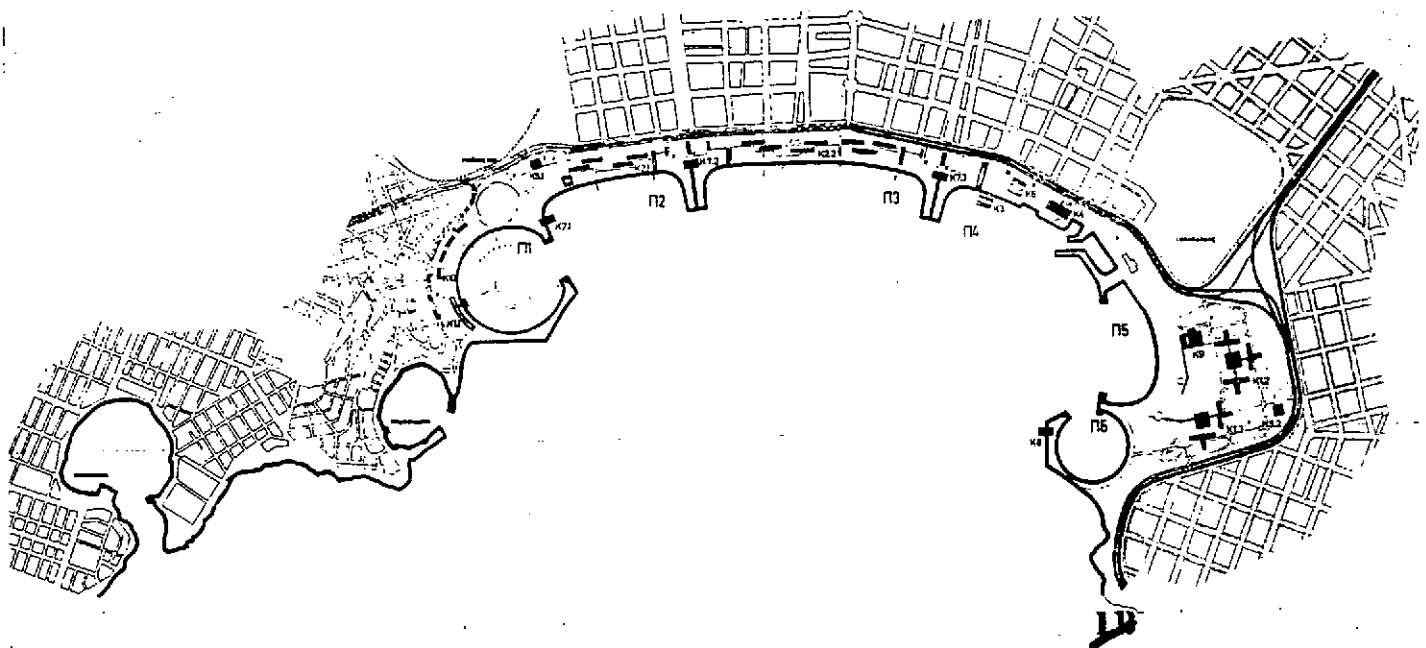
The dictatorship used the existing political and economic structures in order to forward a completely unwise policy, in a third world manner, with negative effects on the natural and build environment, by using means and procedures of Obligatory Laws, decisions under the form of military orders, compulsory expropriations, etc.

One of the large Touristic Plans of the dictatorship was the “development” of the Coastal Zone from Faliro to Castella, containing large luxurious American Hotels, Convention Centers, marinas etc.

This area which used to be a favoured leisure area of the Athenians during the pre-war period, it would be offered to Touristic functions not allowed to the inhabitants. Finally, the only “works” remained from that attempt, is the landfill of the coast, which changed the natural landscape.



264. Proposal for Faliron bay development by N. Valsamakis, K. Decavallas and B. Bogakos (1969) (source: Architecture in Greece 1973)



265. Proposal for Faliron bay development by th. Papayannis and M. Fotiadis (1969) (source: Architecture in Greece 1973)

3.5.5. The Public Spaces

The social and economic factors of the previous years had created an urban environment with inadequate road network, insufficient Open Public Spaces (squares, green areas), and social infrastructure.

In January 1969, in N. Smyrni, the central square was designed according to an architectural drawing by G. Lonardos and L. Kalivitis.

The previously unformed Open Space has been shaped as central square of the whole region, with many commercial and leisure functions in geometrically conceived and organized space, with Modernistic influences.

In 1969, the space next to the American Embassy, a former army camp, was created by P. Vokotopoulos into a Park encompassing a monument of El. Venizelos. It became very popular to the Athenians, but some years later a large sector was offered for the construction of the Concert Hall. (Music Palace).

At the beginning of the '70s, in the Faliro bay an artificial coastal zone was created, of 200-250 m width, and plans for the "exploitation" of the area were forwarded, which proposed the construction of multi storeyed Hotels and a large Conference Center.

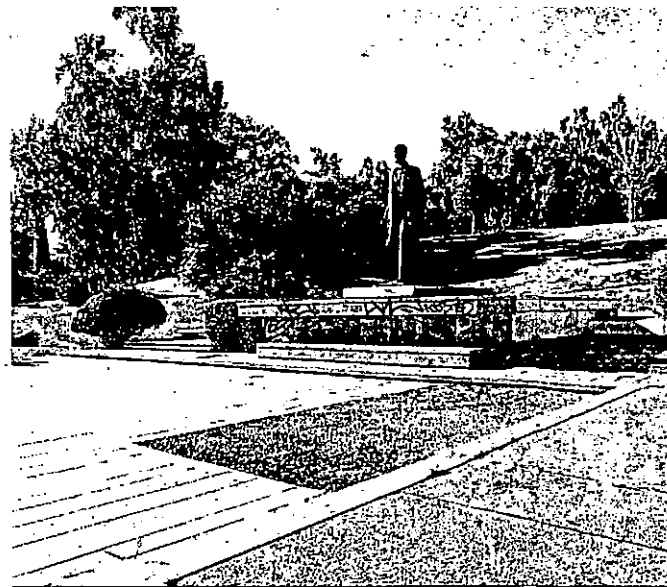
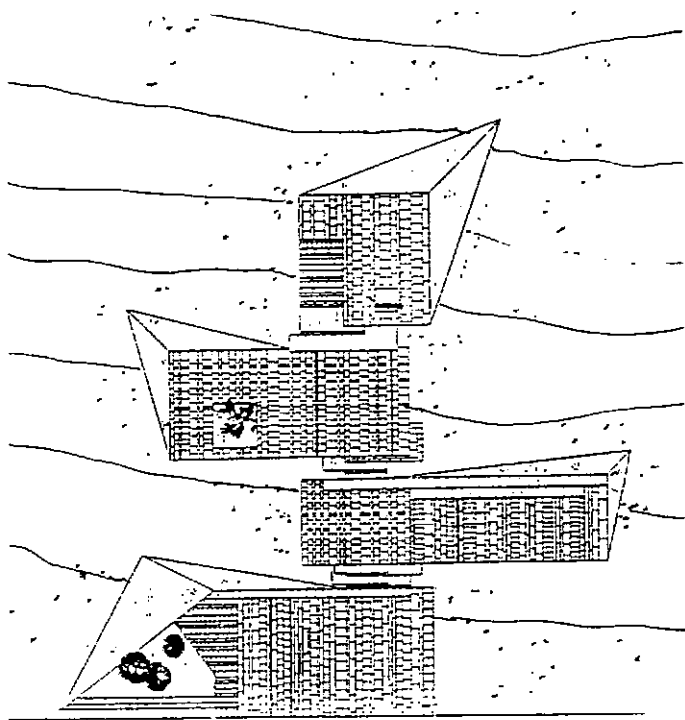
However, this area remained till today, a downgraded area with the indoor "Peace and Friendship" Stadium on the one end and a marina on the other.

In the City center, the aggravation of the circulation and Parking problem led to the decision for the construction of an underground Parking Station at Klafthmonos square, whose construction began in 1971 and was completed in 1974.

The excavations revealed a part of the ancient walls built by Themistocles. These were preserved at the underground level and badly exposed. Instead, they should consist the main concept for the formation of the Public Space of Klafthmonos square, by projecting its history.

In 1973, the "Deanship of Landscape and the Cities" protested against the continuing uncontrolled operation of the quarries, the new industries and the Touristic installations, which were destroying the Attic Landscape.

During the dictatorship, the idea of a new Cathedral (Mitropolis) in Athens, named "Church of Saviour" as the Nation's vow, was brought up again, in the ideological context of "Greece of Christian Greeks", with an architectural



266. The El. Venizelos' Monument and Landscape formation (P. Vocotopoulos, 1969, source: Greece, 20th century Architecture 1970)

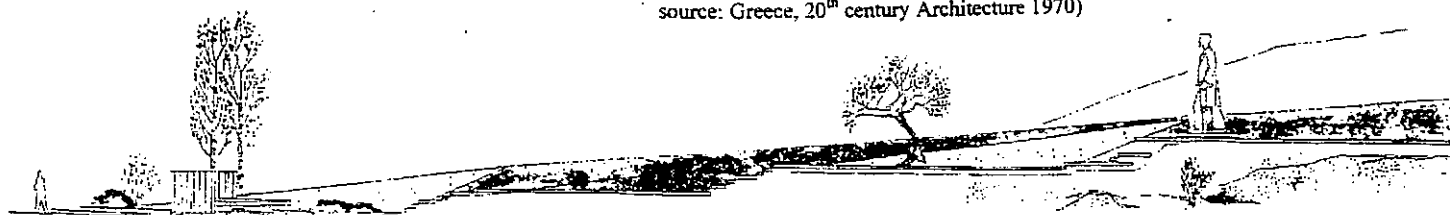
267. The El. Venizelos' Monument and Landscape formation (P. Vocotopoulos, 1969, source: Greece, 20th century Architecture 1970)



268. The El. Venizelos' Monument
source: Greece, 20th century Architecture 1970)



269. The El. Venizelos' Monument and Landscape formation (P. Vocotopoulos, 1969, source: Greece, 20th century Architecture 1970)



270. The El. Venizelos' Monument and Landscape formation (P. Vocotopoulos, 1969, source: Greece, 20th century Architecture 1970)

Competition (1960), this time related with the reforestation of the rocky hill of Vrilissos (Tourkovounia).

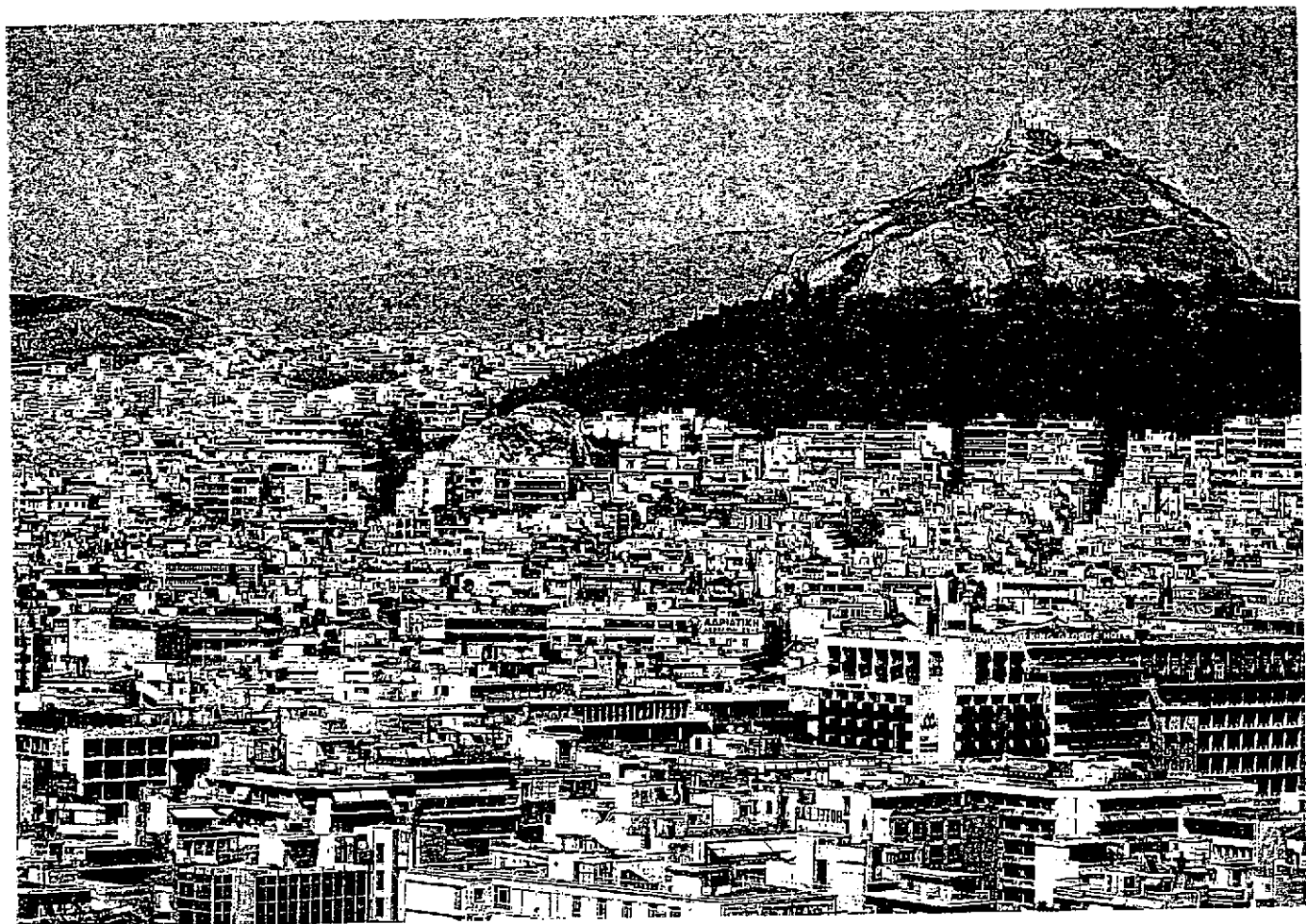
Vrilissos Hill (being between Psychico and Galatsi areas), had suffered from quarries operation as other hills of Athens.

Finally, the competition became unsuccessful, three times, and from the whole programme only the replantation of the hill was executed later on and the area was named Attic Grove, or Attic Park. During the Dictatorship period D. Ritsos was appointed as Mayor of Athens and tried to Produce as many works as possible, in the field of Open Public Spaces' formations. He ordered the Municipality's services to design and construct (or reconstruct) public spaces in a fast pace, as really mass production, in order that Dictatorship be connected with productivity.

Every small or large city space has been, in the scope of construction, but with very poor final results, as neither the design nor the materials and the construction in general were of a satisfactory quality (See examples in Appendix 6). By using the same cheap materials and techniques everywhere, the Athens Public Spaces became identical in Character, despite their original features and space characteristics.

Concluding from the inquiry of this period, we gather that the unwise dictatorship's policy affected the city's development, by the increase of the allowed buildings volume and height and permitted the arbitrary constructions. This fact aggravated even more the city's matters as the infrastructure and the networks, which remained insufficient. The dictatorship's authorities perceived the city's issues only from their quantity point of view, as quality of space was irrelevant to their mentality. Thus, they only searched for impressive works despite their possibly negative aspects.

However, Open Public Spaces were not considerably developed during this period, as many of the proposed plans were not realized or remained unfinished. Examples are, the attempted construction of the New Cathedral on top of the Vrilissos Hill as a new Nation's symbol and the underground Car Park under Klafthmonos square.



271. Athens' view in 1975 (source: author's collection)

3.6. ATHENS DURING THE POST DICTATORSHIP PERIOD (1974-1980)

The securing of Democracy

3.6.1. General

After seven years in power, the dictatorial regime collapsed in June 1974, after instigating the National Tragedy of the Cypriot-Greeks.

The interrelationship of sociopolitical powers, did not permit a rift at social structural level, but it prescribed a regular transition to political democracy, without any gap in the power, under C. Karamanlis with a government of National Unity. The first measures taken, concerned the restoration of the democratic regime, in all fields of political life.

In the elections of 17th November 1974, the party of New Democracy won with 54,3%, under the direction of C. Karamanlis.

The recovering economic evolution contributed to the fact, that the progressive structure of Greek society favoured the effective function of political democracy. The post dictatorship period, was marked by the efforts made for the admission of Greece in the European Community, which was a fact achieved due to the efforts made by C. Karamanlis, in 1979.

The economic and social modernization was from now on, a critical issue for the public.

In the meanwhile, negotiations for the cease fire in Cyprus fell through, and Turkey launched a new attack, by seizing the 40% of the island and expelling 200.000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. Greece's ability to react was restricted, due to the military weakness caused by the dictatorship (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000). As a protest for the America's position in these events, Greece withdrew from the military sector of NATO, rejoining in October 1980.

On 3rd September 1974, the foundation of the Panhellenic Socialistic Movement (PASOK), was announced by A. Papandreou, and in December, in the State Referendum, people voted for the Republic and against the King's restoration.

Since October 1974, prosecution began, against the leaders of the military coup, who were taken into custody.

In June 1975, Greece applied for admission in the Common Market.



272. Celebrating the dictatorship's fall on the 23rd July 1974 (source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)

The Treaty of Accession was signed in May 1979. Greece would formally enter to the European Community on 1st January 1981.

Greece's entrance was considered to be, among others, the best way to stabilize the country's democratic institutions and security (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

At the same time, national efforts were made for the consolidation of Democracy, granting amnesty to all political prisoners and legalizing the Communist Party (KKE) in September 1974.

The political change was completed on a political level, in the summer of '75, with the establishment of the country's New Constitution, which endorsed the Presidential Democracy.

The Constitution of 1975, was one of the most liberal constitutions, as far as Political Freedom and Human Rights are concerned, although somewhat weak in restructuring and coordinating authorities, modifying their functions and taking advantage of the radicalism, which evolved during the last period of the dictatorship.

Basic sectors of Public life, Administration, Local Authorities, the Army and the Public Security Forces, Education, Social Welfare, and a significant part of the Economy were controlled by the political parties, which finally developed into parties-mechanisms that absorbed social dynamics and neutralized them (Karkayannis, 1999).

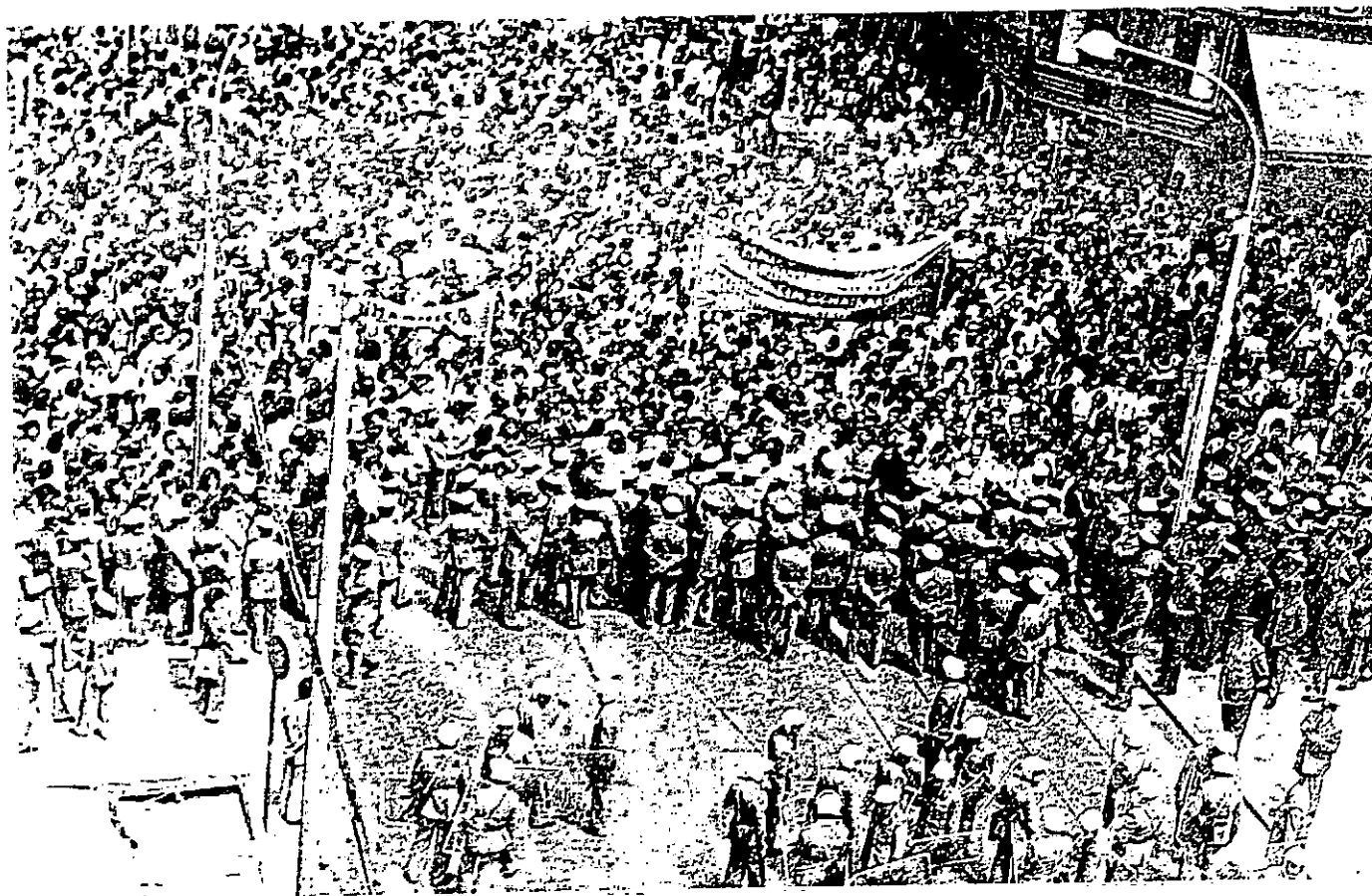
The expected "purification" was restricted to the heads of the 21st April junta, but the army had finally returned to its original position, while the Left was incorporated into the Parliamentary system (Papaconstantinou, 1999).

Greece's diplomatic relations had a number of problems to face in relation to Turkey (Cyprus, Aegean) and with all Western countries and the Third World. The post-dictatorship period was a period of isolation for the country.

However, the whole period was characterized by Greece's attempt to join the EEC. This probably was the most remarkable diplomatic activity in the recent history of Greece.

During this period, intense attempts were made for the reformation of the economy which was in a vulnerable position by the absurd policy of the dictatorship, the general mobilization of 1974, and the oil crises (Hatzivassiliou 1999).

Since already 1974, C. Karamanlis' governments were obliged to follow a high income policy, which did not manage to control inflation. Moreover, a nationalization policy followed, under which, many big companies (Olympic



273. A strike against the Decree On Working Organizations in 1976 (source: Kathimerini)

Airways, Andreadis group of Companies, Aspropirgos Refinery etc) were passed on to the Public Sector, increasing its size. Besides, the perspective of Greece's admission in the European Communities, imposed large scale adaptations. In May 1980, C. Karamanlis, was elected as President of Democracy, and was replaced, in the leadership of New Democracy and the premiership, by G. Rallis.

3.6.2. The social structure

The structural changes of the Greek Society following the dictatorship, found the public unable to affect the political matters. The Conservative party managed to be reorganized, and to present a renewed and moderate image, with a new liberal ideology, which after a certain point failed to prove convincing. On the contrary, the middle class acquired special political importance and this especially concerned the city's lower middle class, who in its majority consisted of employees, technicians, company executives, tradesmen, free-lance businessmen etc. The increase of these classes resulted from productive activities, the relevant social relationships in the period 1960 – 1980, and the significant enlargement of the tertiary sector, a characteristic of developed societies.

A catalytic factor for the social development, was the emergence of A. Papandreou and PASOK, first of all for its audacious and massive renewal of politicians, with members of the "anti-dictatorship generation", and also, for bringing back the old ideas of the Left to the new classes, of the "non privileged" and "little-medium" (incomes) (Ligeros, 1999). These social classes had as a slogan the "Allagi" (Change), aiming to legalize their participation in Power.

The admission of foreign capital and its distribution led the economy to non productive directions. The opening of the Greek Society to consumerism, which had started from the dictatorship period, undermined the forms of social coherence and weakened the traditional structure.

Behind a face of contemporary "western" type consuming society, survived a structurally weak society.

Significant changes in the organization of everyday life, verified the gradual loss of traditional forms of social, political and cultural control.



274.C. Karamanlis signing the Treaty for Greece's accession into EEC, in Zappion, in May 1979 (source: Kathimerini)

This was partly due to the change of attitude of the Greek women concerning their traditional family role, which was perhaps the only stable structure in Greek society.

Besides, on the economy level, the powers of modernization acted through the dissolution of the old order of political and social matters.

In the countryside, the decrease of the emigrants' pay-checks, combined with the economic problems, caused many villagers to turn to the Tourism and to abandon their agrarian activities. This event had a significant impact at a social level, due to the abrupt interaction with different civilizations, and the social alterations concealed by this new activity (Nicolaidou 1993).

3.6.3. The spirit of the times

Since Greece joined the EEC, a gradual ideological absorption of the theories of the European Metropolis, began. Even the intense anti-European positions of the opposition (PASOK), subsequently changed in acceptance of some positive points.

Greece, started to be aware of the fact, that more and more decisions would be taken by the European Community and the general mentality should be harmonized with European patterns. Also the social structures, institutions, education, economic mechanisms, and ideologies, should be reorganized from the beginning (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

With regards to the European Union, the ideological questions such as "Greece and the West", the "past and present", "tradition and modernization" acquired new meanings.

Greece, released from the obligatory "discipline" of the period 1967-1974, proceeded towards a new cultural model with west-European patterns, and also patterns provided by the TV family serials. The idea of the "Greek character" was mainly substituted by "populism" and "Left Amoralism" but the tendencies were already leaned towards a "technocratic realism" within the context of the new-liberal economy.

In Education, the government of "National Unity", immediately faced issues of "cleansing" the Educational system from pro-junta elements, and founded its



275. Political concerts in the post-directorship period (source: Publication in the Press)



276. New theatrical approaches by theatrical groups (source: Kathimerini)

“democratic” modification in a climate of enthusiasm and optimism, advancing to infrastructure alterations work.

In January 1976, changes were made in the educational legislation, which were characterized by the recall of special characteristics and agreements made through the Reformation of 1964, such as the establishment of the Demotic language at all levels of Education and in Administration, the abolition of Ancient Greek texts taught at High School level, 9 years obligatory education, and 3 years for the Lycée.

In the field of Civilization, decisions were taken for the protection and the utilization of the Archaeological Spaces and monuments of Athens.

In this period, the construction of the Palace of Music was approved, and spreading of cultural happenings was initiated.

In Literature, the themes evolved from the personal interpretation of events to the creation of artistic myths, with a simultaneous downgrading of the significance of patriotism and an obvious disorganization of the cohesive essence of History (Ziras, 1999).

In Literature, some of the most important works of this period, were,

- 1975. A. Alexandrou : The case, T. Athanassiadis : The guards of Achaia, M. Koumandareas : Glass manufacture, Al. Deligiorgis : The cries, T. Denegris : Death in Kaningos square.
- 1976. D. Hatzi : The double book, N. Vagenas : The guild, T. Kazatzis : The parade.
- 1977. N. Kasdaglis : Mythology, M. Alexandropoulos : Leaves and feather, A. Sourounis : The playmates.
- 1978. M. Koumantareas : Mrs Koula, J. Ioannou : Our blood, P. Haris : Days of anger, E. Kaknavatos : Lestrigones street, M. Sahtouris : Poems.
- 1979. M. Douka : Ancient rust, A. Kotzias : Usurpation of Authority, T. Livaditis : Manual of euthanasia, A. Dimoula : The fate of destiny.

In this year, Od. Elytis was honoured with the Nobel Prize of Literature.

In 1975, the conservation and restoration works of the Acropolis monuments and a systematic excavation in Ramnounda, began.

In the area of Fine Arts, since the beginning of the of '70s, two major currents were distinguished, in Contemporary Art, the first with conventional means, differentiated from Modernism, which up to then, was the dominant Art form.



277. Traditional dances by the group Dora Stratou, in 1975

(source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)



278. "The Company", a landmark in Greek Cinema, by Th. Angelopoulos (source: Cinema magazine)

The second, advancing to the appropriation of space, the real object and the body, abolished the distinction between Painting and Sculpture, and broadened media's of form expression, with electronic means, computers or video.

In the first category included the media expression of Pop Art and New Realism. (G. Valavanidis, Chr. Botsoglou, K. Katzourakis, J. Psychopedis).

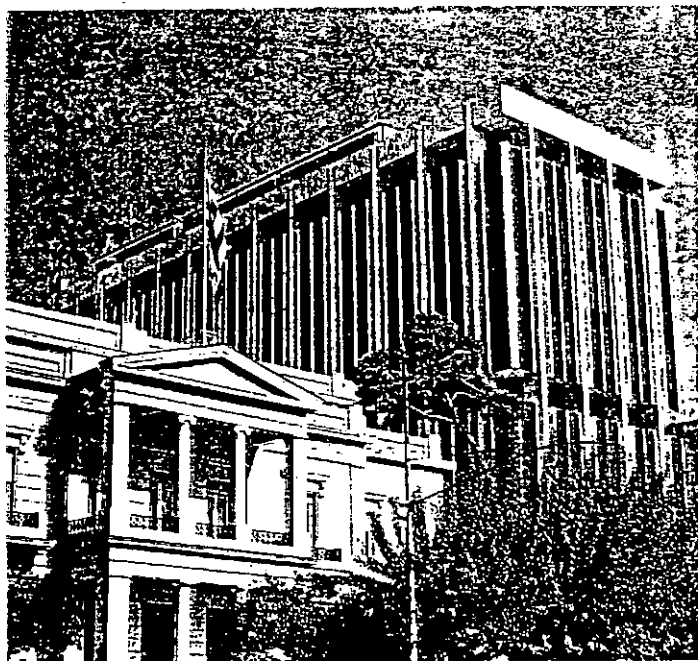
In the second category, new tendencies were developed, with the use of other media tools, such as photography, dummies etc (Daniil, Vl. Kaniaris, N. Kessanlis). The art forms that resulted, were named Environments, Installations, Activities, Performances and Land Art (Thodoros, J. Gaitis, Chryssa, K. Tsoclis, G. Zogolopoulos and others). In Sculpture, new artists were added to the already distinguished ones, such as, N. Issaris, Ias. Molfessis, Th. Panourgias, G. Kalakalas, Th. Papayannis, G. Nikolaidis.

In the area of Music, political factors, including the policy and cultural oppression of the junta, and also social and economic factors, with the urbanization of Greek Society, heavily impacted on musical expression, the results of which summarized in the "political song".

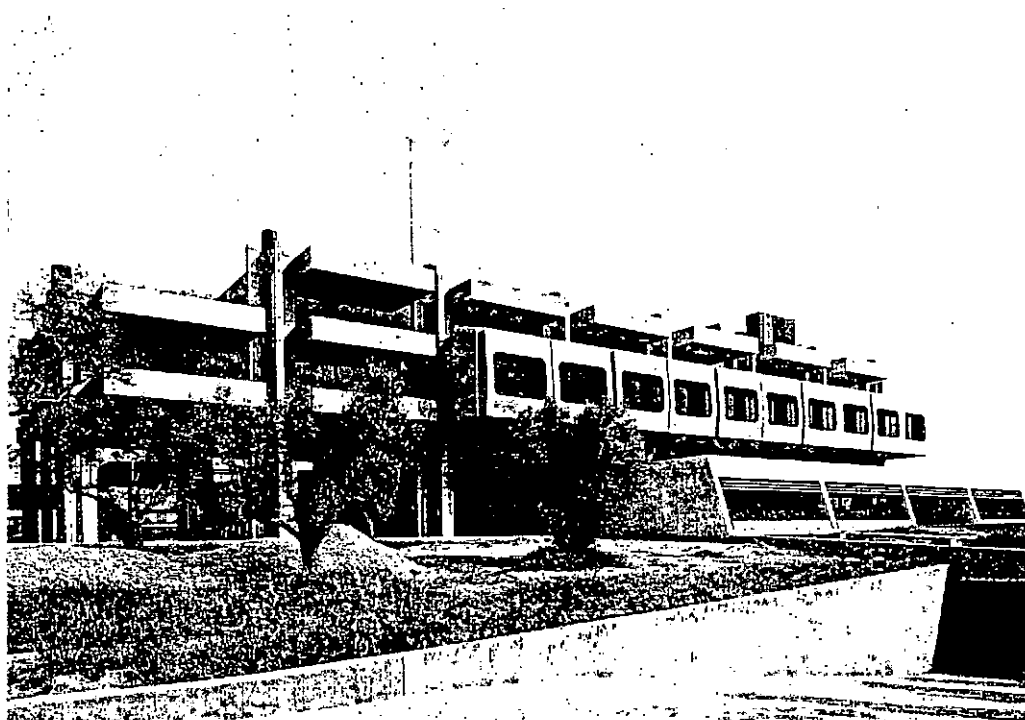
The recording industry was consolidated and imposed seasonal trends and music idols, at the same time when political institutions were entangled in the formation of the perception of art. With the political change being concluded, M. Theodorakis' work was permitted to be circulated and his major political concerts to take place, while the other personality of Greek Music, M. Hatzidakis, held various positions (director of State Orchestra, general director of ERT – radio, Assistant director of the Lyric Scene) which permitted the reformation of musical settings and the country's cultural ethos in conjunction with his intense presence with musical compositions (Tsambras, 1999).

The climate of this period, also projected other creative and powerful personalities (Th. Mikroutsikos, El. Andriopoulos, M. Loizos, L. Kilaidonis)

In Theater, during the political changeover, requests were presented for the social and political role of the Theater, the demand for decentralization and promotion of contemporary Greek plays. These factors liberated new forces, with the creation of new companies, and the evolution of contemporary play writing, with main elements the development of Greek society and its behaviour (Mavromoustakos, 1999).



279. The extension of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (J. Vikelas,
source: author's photograph)



280. The AGET Company's headquarters (A. Tombazis, source: author's collection)

Such plays were, G. Dialegmenos : “We lost the auntie stop” (Arcade Theater, 1976), M. Eftimiadis : “The Protectors” (Art Theater, 1976), M. Lymberaki : “The other Alexander”, D. Kehaidis : “Backgammon” (Art Theater, 1972) etc.

New theatrical companies were established, with renewed directional approaches, such as the Amphitheater of Sp. Evangelatos, The Research Theater of D. Potamitis, the Popular Experimental Theater of L. Trivizas and many others, which enriched the Theatrical activity.

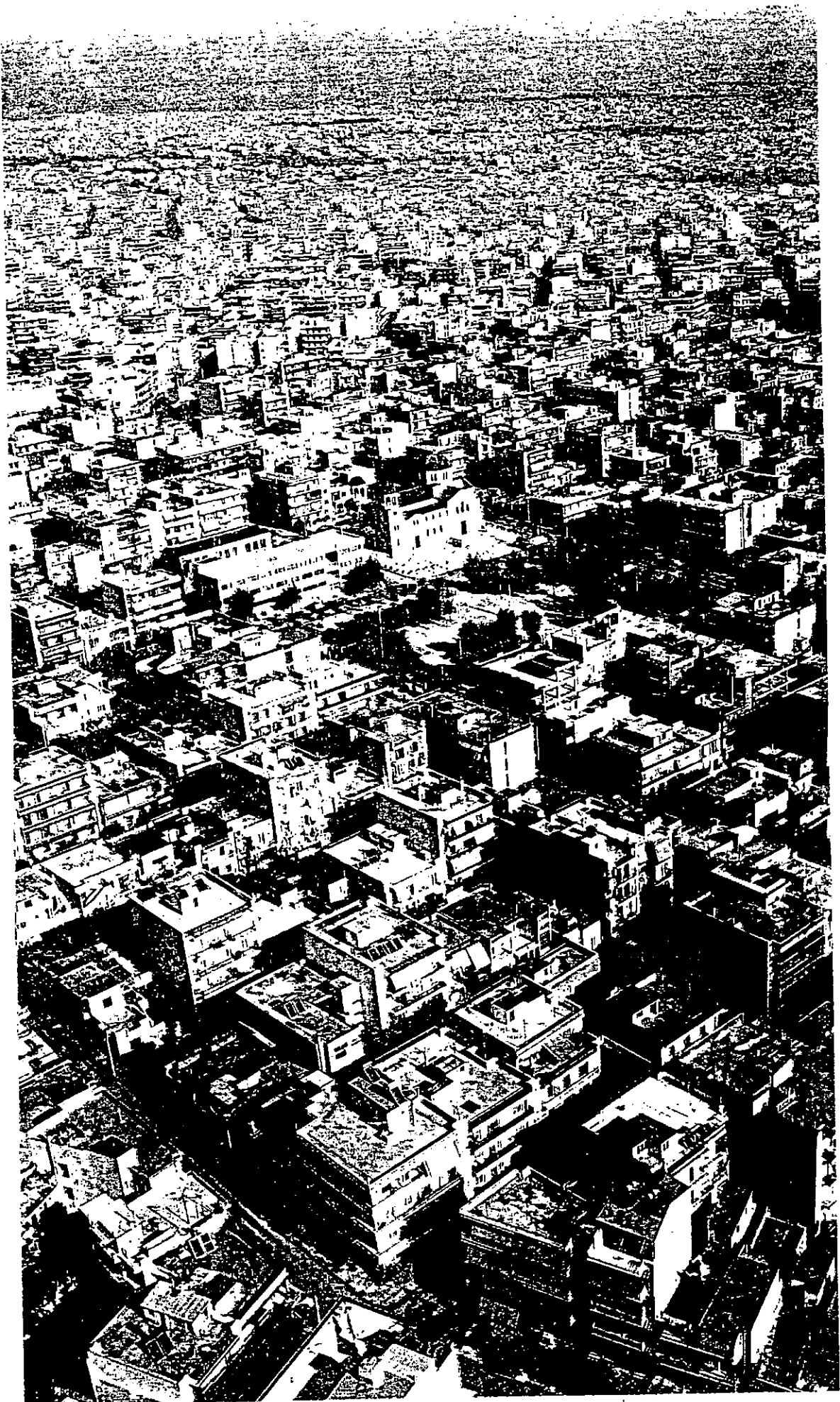
In Cinema, the development of the New Greek Cinema, continued with the movie “The Company” which was considered as one of the best, internationally. Other examples are “The Hunters” (1977), by Th. Angelopoulos, based on recent Greek History, the “Songs of Fire” by N. Koundouros and “Attila '74” by M. Kakoyannis, based on the fierce Turkish invasion in Cyprus.

Many young directors also appeared, cultivating new trends against the “establishment” (T. Marketaki, K. Aristopoulos, N. Panayotopoulos, N. Nikolaidis, Th. Retzis, V. Vafeas, and others) while the period closed with the “Man with the carnation” by N. Tzimas (1989), a story of the executed political prisoner N. Beloyannis, and “Megalexandros” by Th. Angelopoulos (1980) (Katsounaki 1999).

In Architecture, in the '70s, the Postmodern movement dominated, and the borders between the various trends became less apparent. The formalistic and neo – historic trends, associated with other Post – Modernism approaches produced fashionable, but controversial buildings, such as the commercial centers (J. Vikelas) and a historic mannerism in residential buildings (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993).

Significant works as the School of Music by J. Despotopoulos were evolving in a minimal modernistic idiom, while others such as the Museum of Byzantine Civilization in Salonica by K. Krokos, was within the context of “critical regionalism”: with references made to historic Byzantine elements.

In 1988, the 9th Panhellenic Architectural Congress was organized, its subject being “The role of Architecture and Town Planning in the development of the Country”. The questioning evolved, was about the relationship between Public Sector and architectural creation, on Regional and Town Planning, on Social Habitat and on contemporary trends of Architecture and the Greek Architects.



281. Aerial view of Athens in 1980 (source: author's collection)

3.6.4. The city

Despite the continuing assignments of studies, for the adjustment of these issues in Athens and the constant elaboration of the Master Plan in the Ministry of Public Works, the problems of the city, such as the traffic, the pollution and the infrastructure networks lingered on. In the process of time, these matters have been aggravated, and only occasionally dealt with.

In the city, which suffocated under the pressure of problems and its malfunctions, the only vivid element, in the context of the consuming society, was the commercial activity, which demanded a continuous change as a unique medium of survival. The increase of the commercial activities, and these of the sector of services, led to the need of decentralization of the commercial activities. In the mid '70s, the first Commercial Centers were built out of the area of the traditional city center. This event reinforced the urban diffusion and affected the social structure of the Athenian space (Nicolaidou, 1993). At the beginning of the 1970s, Attica and especially Athens, with the majority of hotel infrastructure, concentrated the most significant tourist destinations.

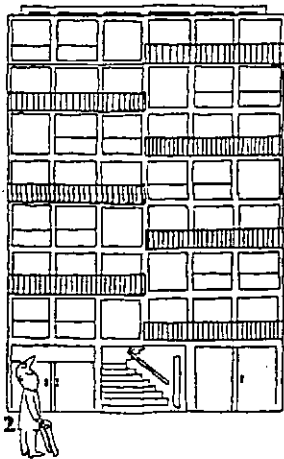
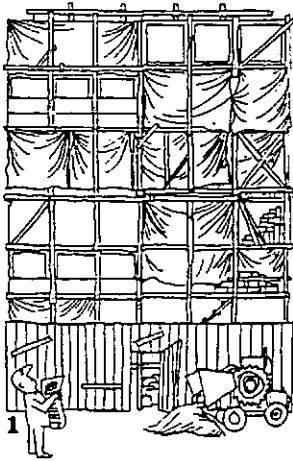
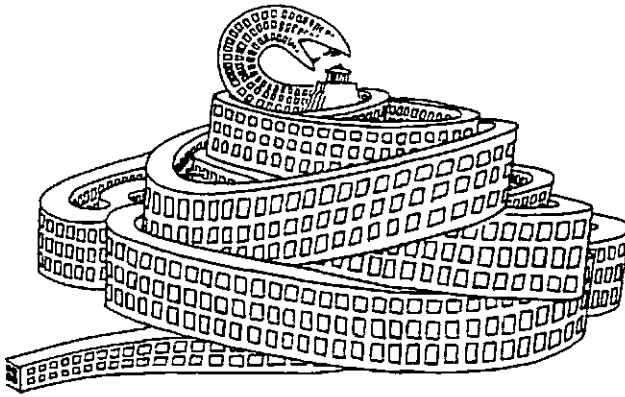
The recorded problems, derived from the unprogrammed urban and regional policy and housing development, which was being applied since the decade of the '60s, as well as the comparisons with relevant procedures in the international space, that revealed the need of a systematic urban and regional planning, which would contain the enrichment of the questioning in this field, as well as the social parameters.

The basic legislative frame, based on the legislative Decree "On Plans of Cities, Towns and Settlements of the State and their Construction" of 1923, although basically correct, were considered insufficient for the contemporary circumstances.

The coping with the problems of the space, was done with constitutional provision relevant to the State's obligations on space matters (Constitution of 1975, article 24), and the establishment of the Ministry of Regional Planning, Housing and Environment, in 1980 (Sariyannis, 2000).

During the summer of 1976, a new policy for the environment was announced, with the replantation of Attica, and the Regional Plan of Athens Region.

Besides, the Study for automobiles' circulation in Athens started in 1979, and the General Regional Plan of the Country was scheduled, aiming to the curbing of the



282. Caricatures about the construction activity in Athens
(C. Mitropoulos, source: Tachydromos magazine)

population growth of Athens, supported by the application of the “Intense Programs of Development (EPA), in Six urban centers of the country.

In 1978, the Master Plan of Athens (being studied since 1972) was published, under the title “Athens 2000” and this has been the last project representing a certain way of thinking and handling matters related to the city’s space.

In 1979, the Law 947/79, concerning Housing areas was published, connecting the economic factor with the management of the space, providing a new dimension in urban planning, by enacting the “contribution in land and money”. The Presidential Decree 697/79, “On Car Parks” was also published (Sariyannis, 2000).

However, despite all good intentions, the application of these laws has been extremely difficult, due to reactions of land owners. Until the mid ‘70s, the urbanization and the industrialization were interrelated. Since the middle of the decade, the phase of de-industrialization effected the development of the social structure of Athens space. In 1978, five collective projects for Athens were assigned to various teams, and the Master Plan “Capital 2000” was produced, by their compromising combination. The development of the Master Plan continued, with the subdivision of the total area into nine regions and their assignment to equivalent teams (Philippidis, 1984).

In 1976, the “Public Enterprise of Planning Settlement and Housing” (DEPOS) was established, and proceeded to reformations of certain districts of Athens (New Philadelphia, Kessariani, Tavros).

Nevertheless, the basic institution for Social Housing production, was the “Autonomous, Organization of Working Class Housing”, (AOEK), belonging to the Ministry of Labour, which progressed with programs of organized housing production, for the accommodation of Public employees.

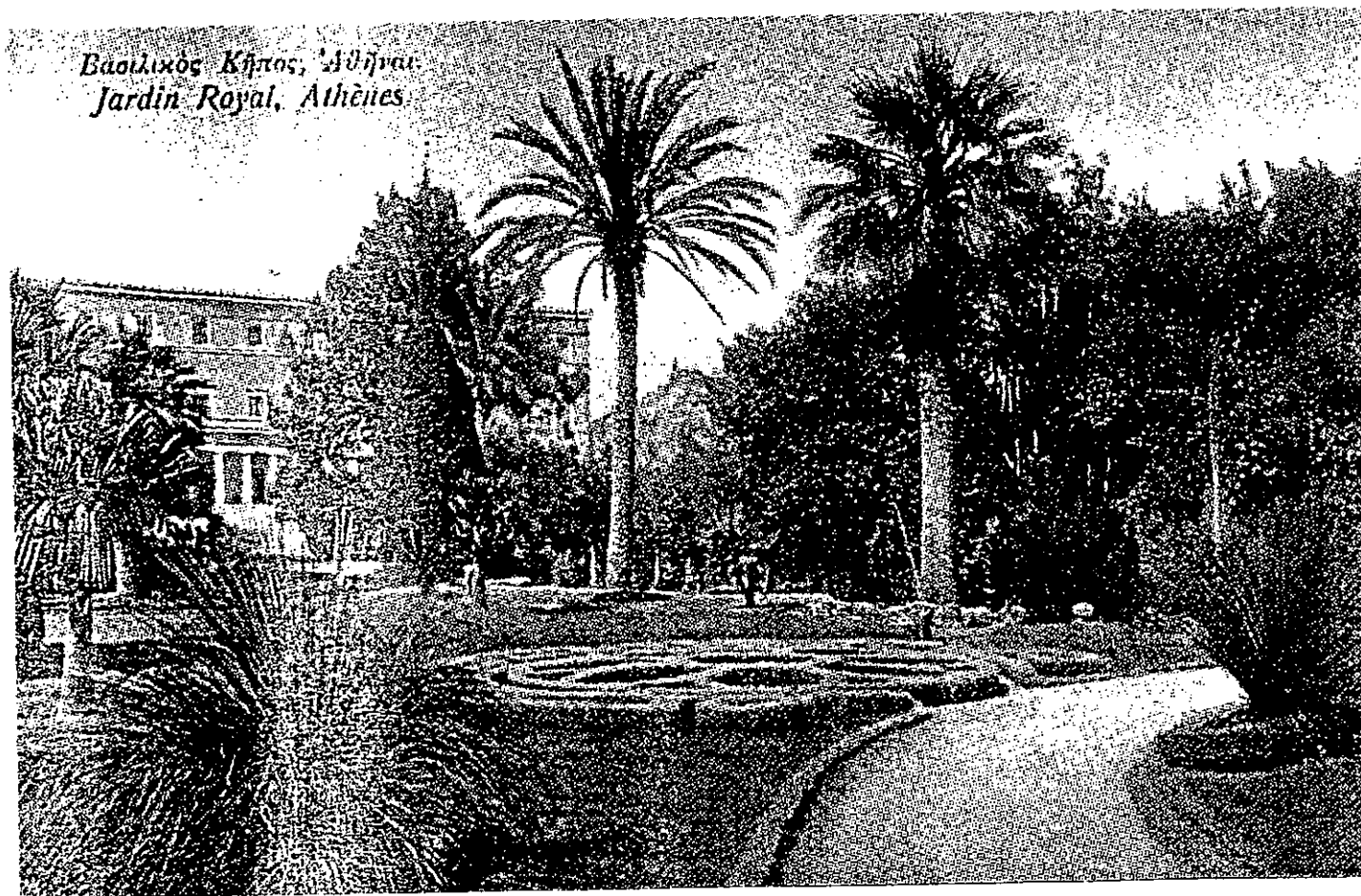
However, the production by AOEK remained low in quality and quantity, and of elementary structure, due to inadequate means. More contemporary were the Housing programs by the “Public Enterprise for Planning, Settlements and Housing” (DEPOS) for the production of low cost, but high density housing, and by EKTENEPOL, the Technical Enterprise of National Land Mortgage Bank was established as an organization for the construction and sale of apartments.

In 1980, the population of Athens was estimated about 3.500.000 inhabitants.

The perception of the conservation of the city’s’ built environment was stabilized in this decade, and was characterized by the concept of re-using of the



283. View of the Cultural Center's area from Hilton Hotel (source: author's photograph)



Βασιλικός Κήπος, Ἀθήναι.
Jardin Royal, Athènes.

284. The National Garden in its present situation (source: author's collection)

downgraded settlements and built environment. Such interventions in Athens, were made the case of Plaka (the old city of Athens) and the reformations by DEPOS in Philadelphia, Kessariani and Tavros.

In 1978, the Study of the district of Plaka has been submitted, but some activity started in 1981, with the proposing of Bills related to the issue, as the Law 947/79, the Decrees 81/80 and 561/82 and the works for infrastructure's construction.

The complicated social, economic, political and architectural problems have been overpassed, and the results have been satisfactory.

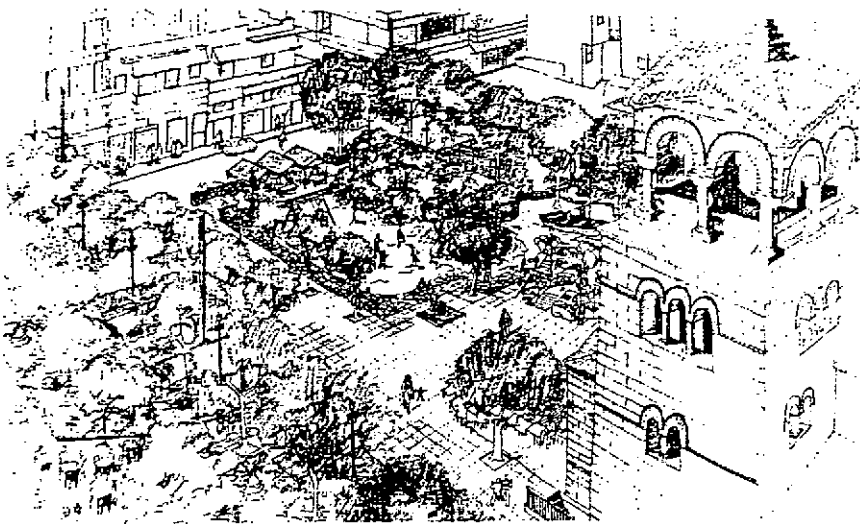
Since the beginning of this period, a great shift of residences toward the suburbs was noticed, in search of green areas and low density, abandoning the central area to lower middle classes and immigrants, due to the lack of open and green spaces in the central area of Athens. This fact created an enormous expansion of the city and large constructions in the Northern – Eastern suburbs, which would continue until the end of the period examined. It subsequently generated a relevant destruction of the natural environment and an increase of cars circulation.

3.6.5. The Public Spaces

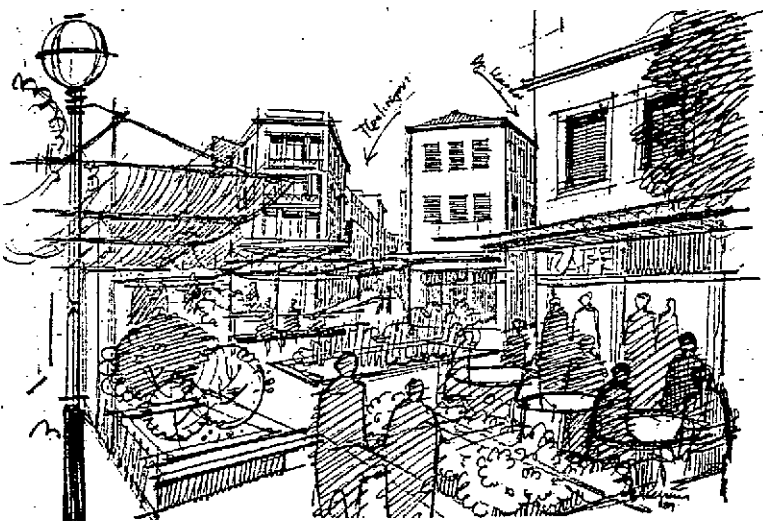
The decentralization of responsibilities belonging to the Ministry of Regional Planning Settlement and Environment to the Municipalities, for organization of Open Public Spaces issues, forwarded matters to a district and local level.

In this way, many streets were converted by the Municipalities of Athens to pedestrian walkways, and many open sites to playgrounds.

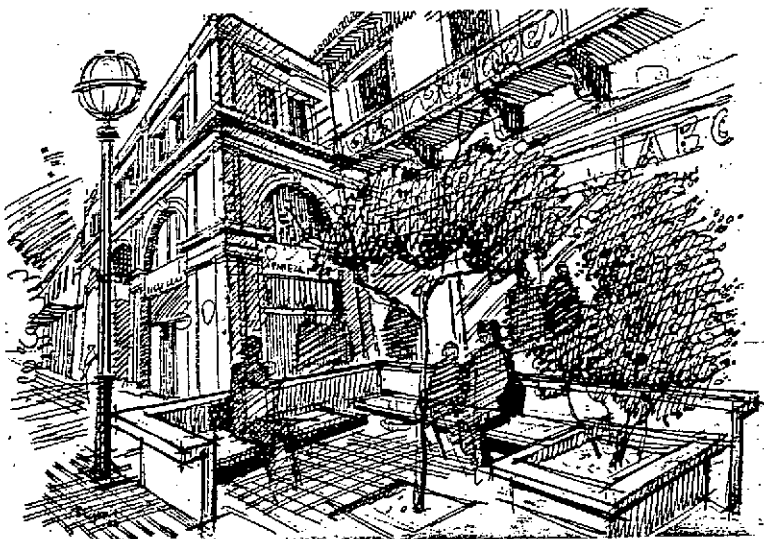
The first pedestrian road created, was Voucourestiou street, which was designed in 1979, but the result although functional and pleasant, it was not convincing one as it was formed with rough materials (concrete and natural stones and green) acquiring a rather rustic character, not so adequate to Athens' center. Many others followed, but it must be noted, that these conversions, were occasional, because they were not scheduled according to a general plan of the city or region. Moreover, they were neither based on a united logic in order to create a broader "network" of pedestrian roads and open spaces in the city, for functional and circulatory reasons, and for connection and unification reasons of various isolated parts of the city, which had remained undeveloped. Another kind of Open Public



285. Perspective for the reformation of an Athenian Square (1979) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



286. Sketches for the formation of small Open Public Spaces (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



287. Sketches for the formation of small Open Public Spaces (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)

Space, was the children's playground that were scheduled by the Municipalities, in order to complete the social equipment of their districts. However, the final results were similar everywhere as they were repeated in the same patterns, by using the same equipment. Another very important Municipalities' activity was that concerned with cultural issues related to natural Landscape. Following the example of Lycabettus old quarry and the open Theater, in many former quarries' spaces in the districts of Byron, Petroupolis, Halandri, Nikea, Hymettus, Egaleo, open theaters have been created, ever since consisting centers for summer cultural events, very popular to Athenians – (Summer Festivals). However, Open Space formation in most case was elementary, concerning only the functional arrangement of the theater, and the Parking area, without any broader Landscape design.

In the new Housing areas created by AOEK, whole complexes were organized in a Modernistic concept, with a rationalistic lay-out of functions (housing, work, recreation) and buildings but the open space remained unshaped and inhospitable.

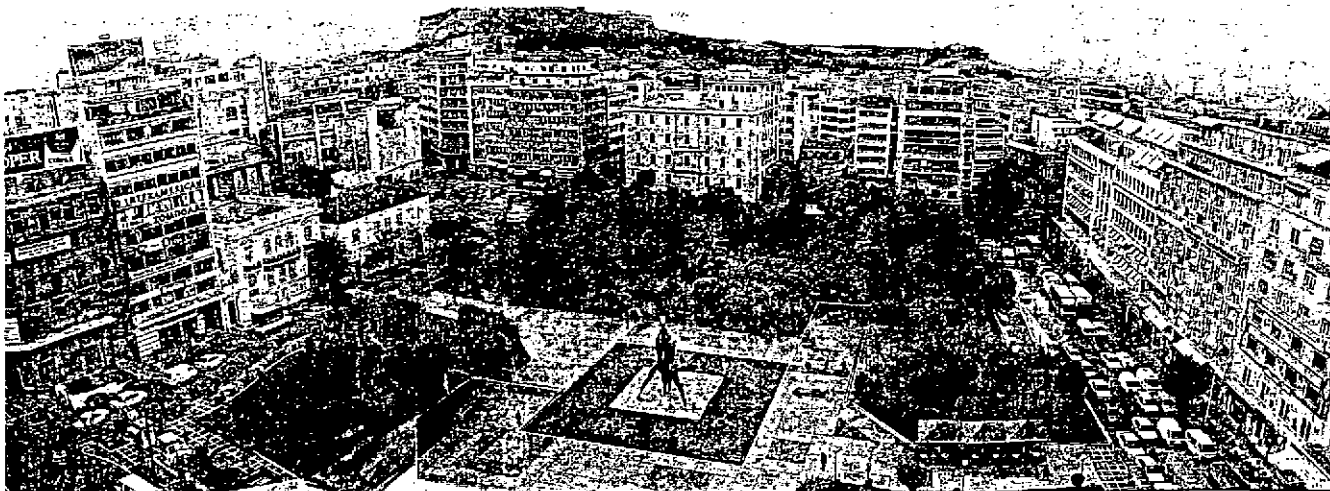
In more recent Housing complexes designed by DEPOS and EKTENEPOL, the infrastructure was more sufficient, but the Landscape and Public Spaces designed, were characterized by the same atmosphere of inhospitality.

In the center of Athens, an architectural competition for the formation of Klafthmonos square, was announced, given the operation of the Car Park already built during the dictatorship.

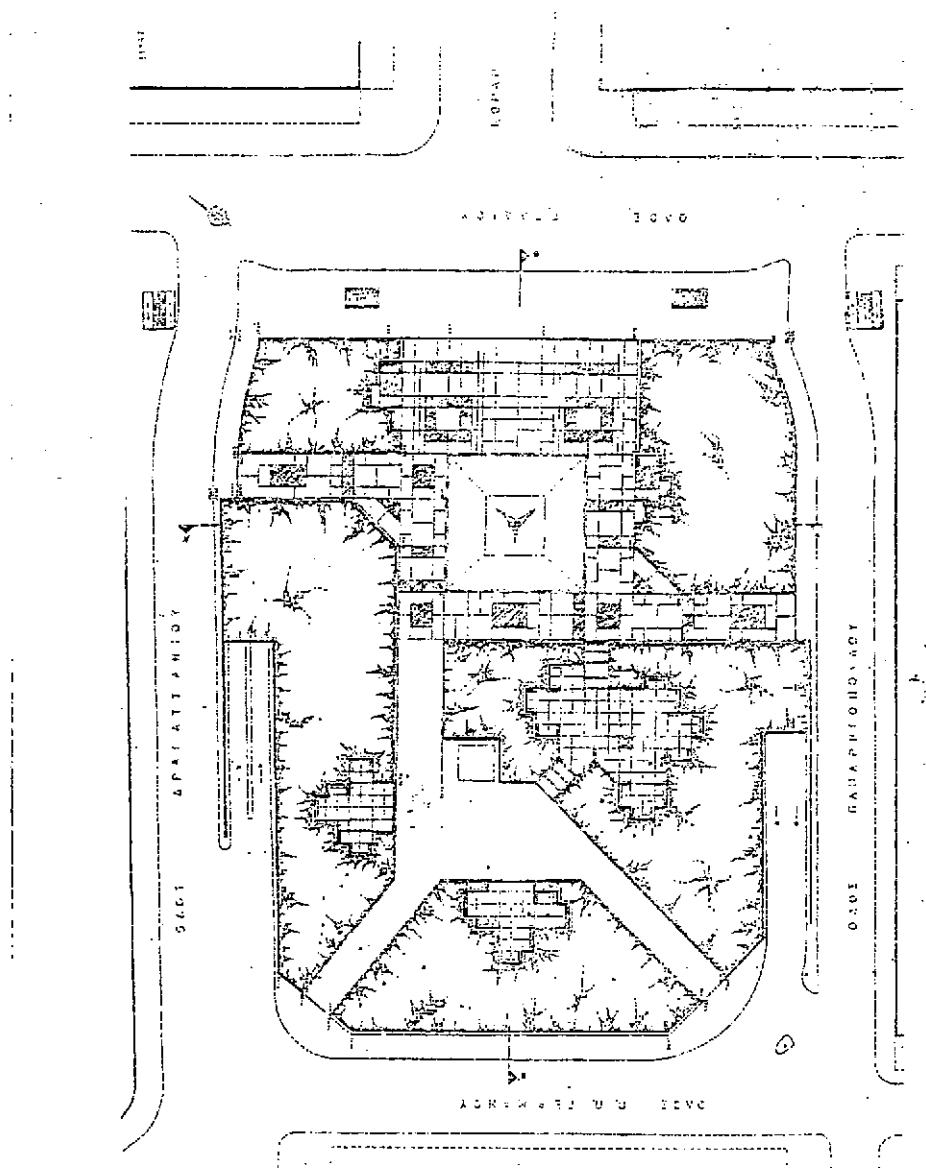
The first prize plan (S. Karacosta) preserved the coppice in the southern part, planted by Queen Amalia and designed the pedestrian circulation paths. After a decade, a sculpture expressing the National Reconciliation and some pergolas were installed, but the whole result was not satisfactory, as it did not project a strong concept. As far as the construction is concerned the same materials and general spirit have been used, as in the case of Voukourestiou street. This central square of the city never acquired intense social life.

In 1975, the former Municipal Hospital in Acadimias Street, was converted into a Municipal Cultural Center, and the Open Public Space surrounding it, was shaped accordingly, and opened to the public.

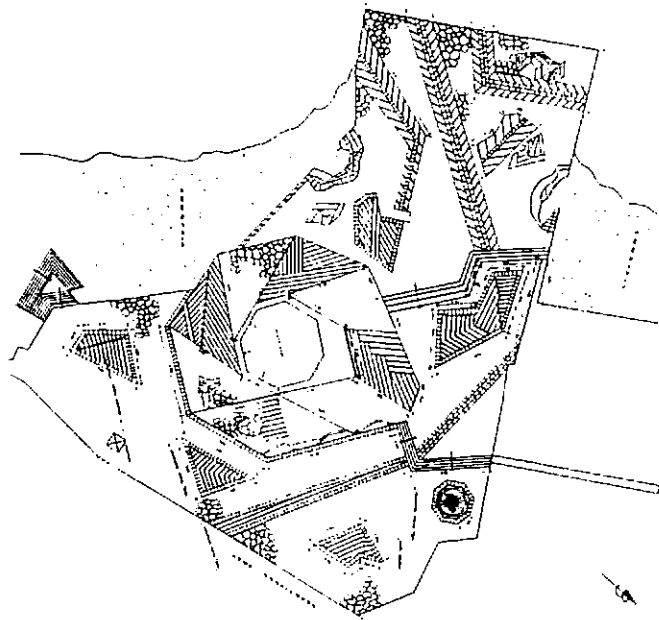
In the Historical Center, the reformation and the improvement of living conditions in Plaka's area, which had satisfactory results, revealed forgotten spatial qualities in this old district of Athens.



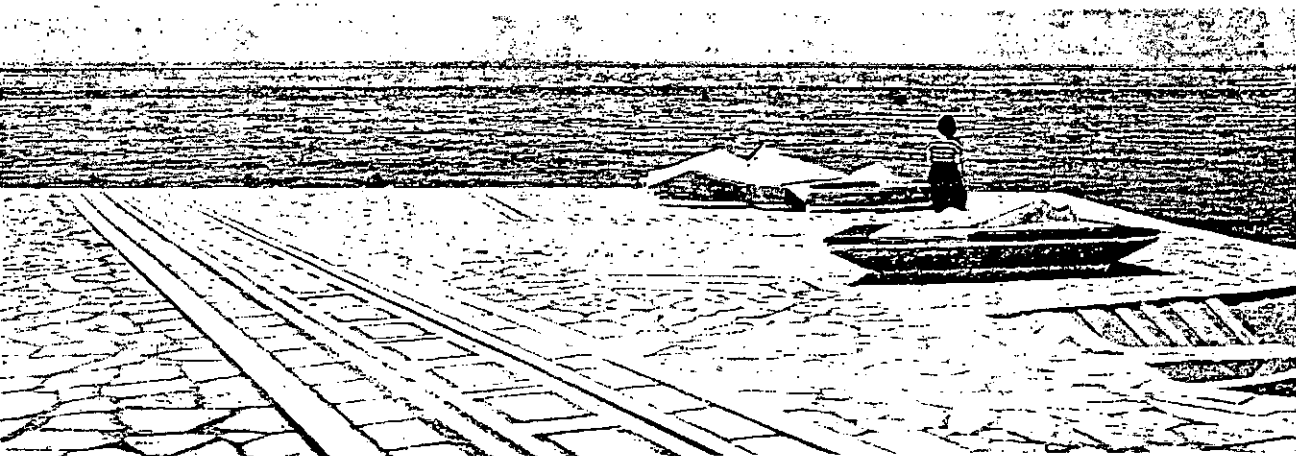
288. Klafthmonos Square in 1987 (source: author's photograph)



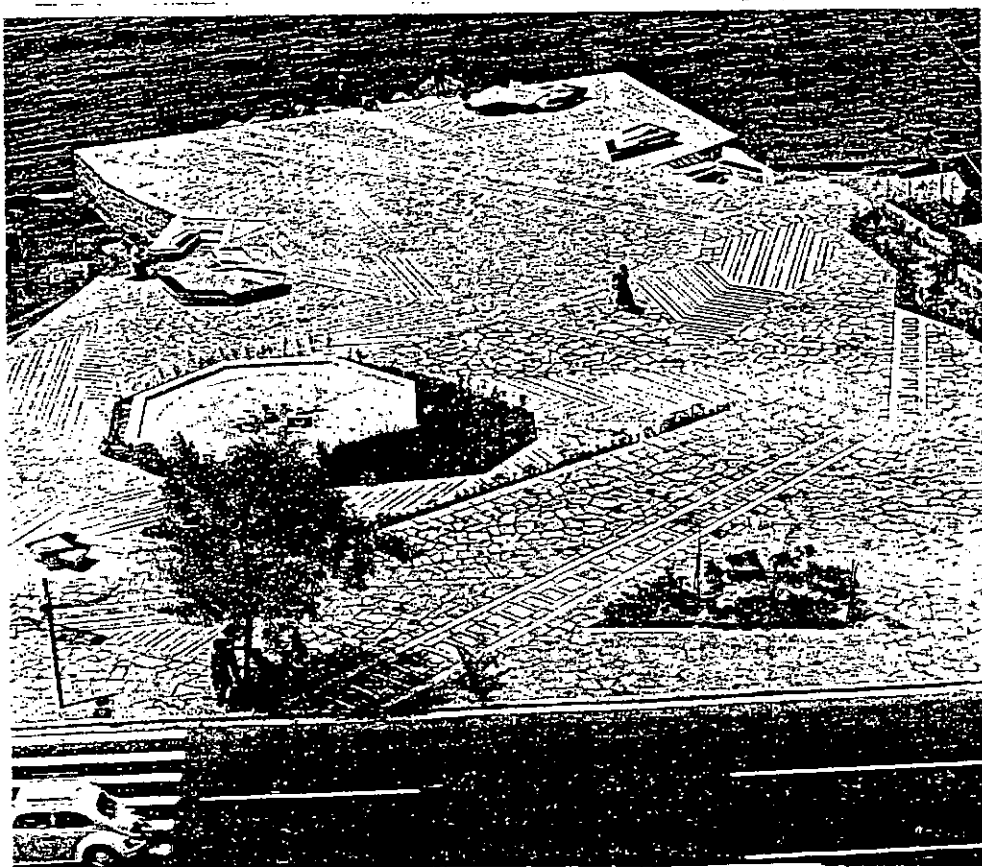
289. Klafthmonos Square plan (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



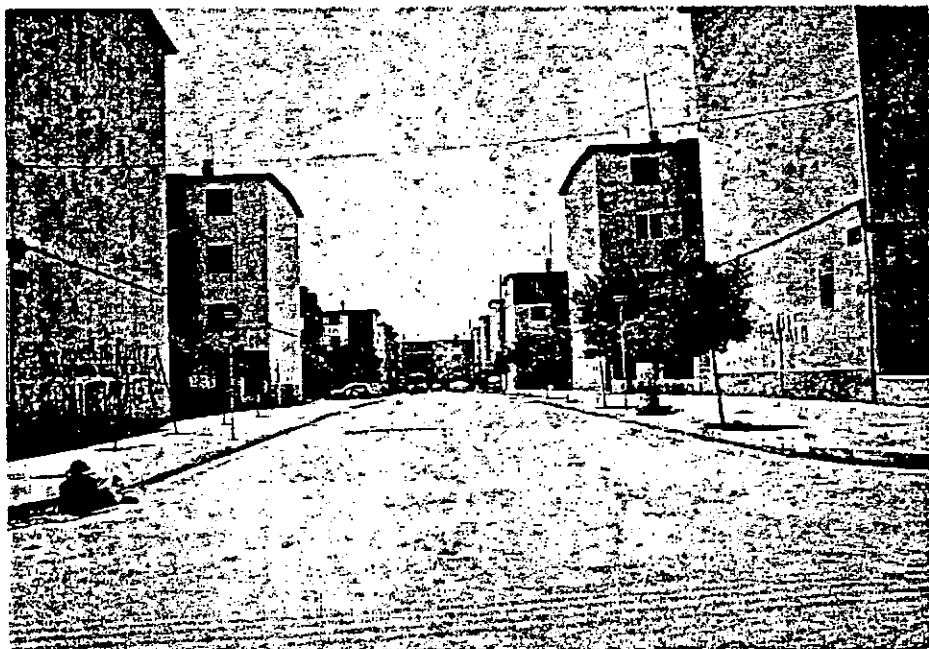
290. Formation of a coastal Open Public Space in Faliron (N. Golanda 1980, source: Design and Art in Greece 1983)



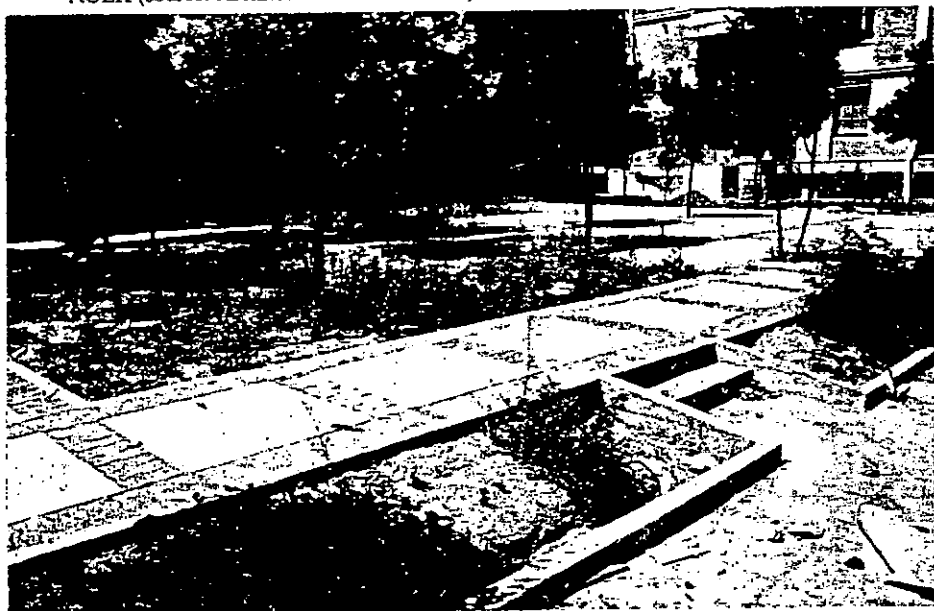
291. Formation of a coastal Open Public Space in Faliron (N. Golanda 1980, source: Design and Art in Greece 1983)



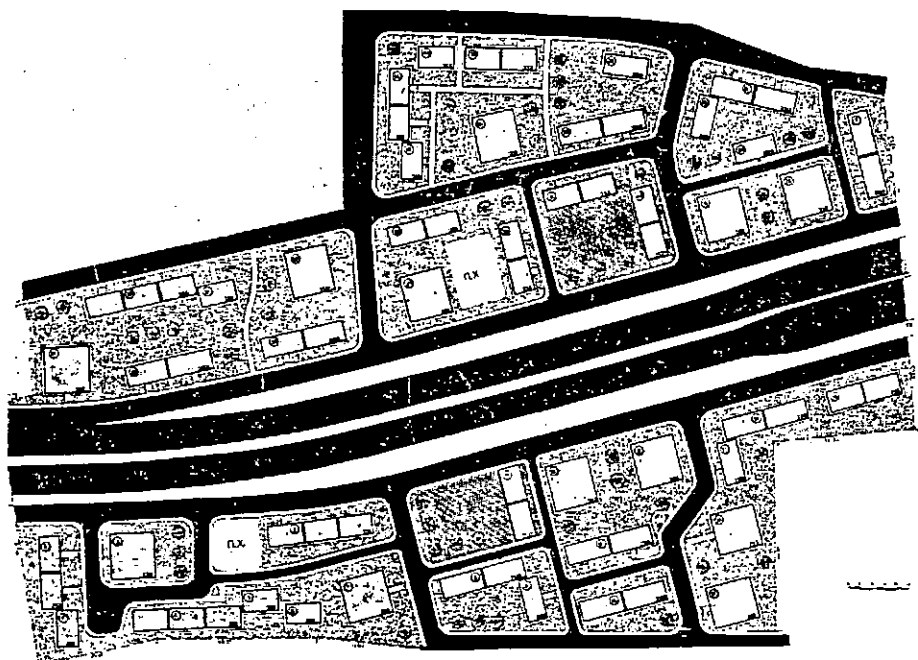
292. Formation of a coastal Open Public Space in Faliron (N. Golanda 1980, source: Design and Art in Greece 1983)



293.Examples of Open Public Spaces formations in Working Class settlements by
AOEK (source: Architecture in Greece 1985)



294.Examples of Open Public Spaces formations in Working Class settlements by
AOEK (source: Architecture in Greece 1985)



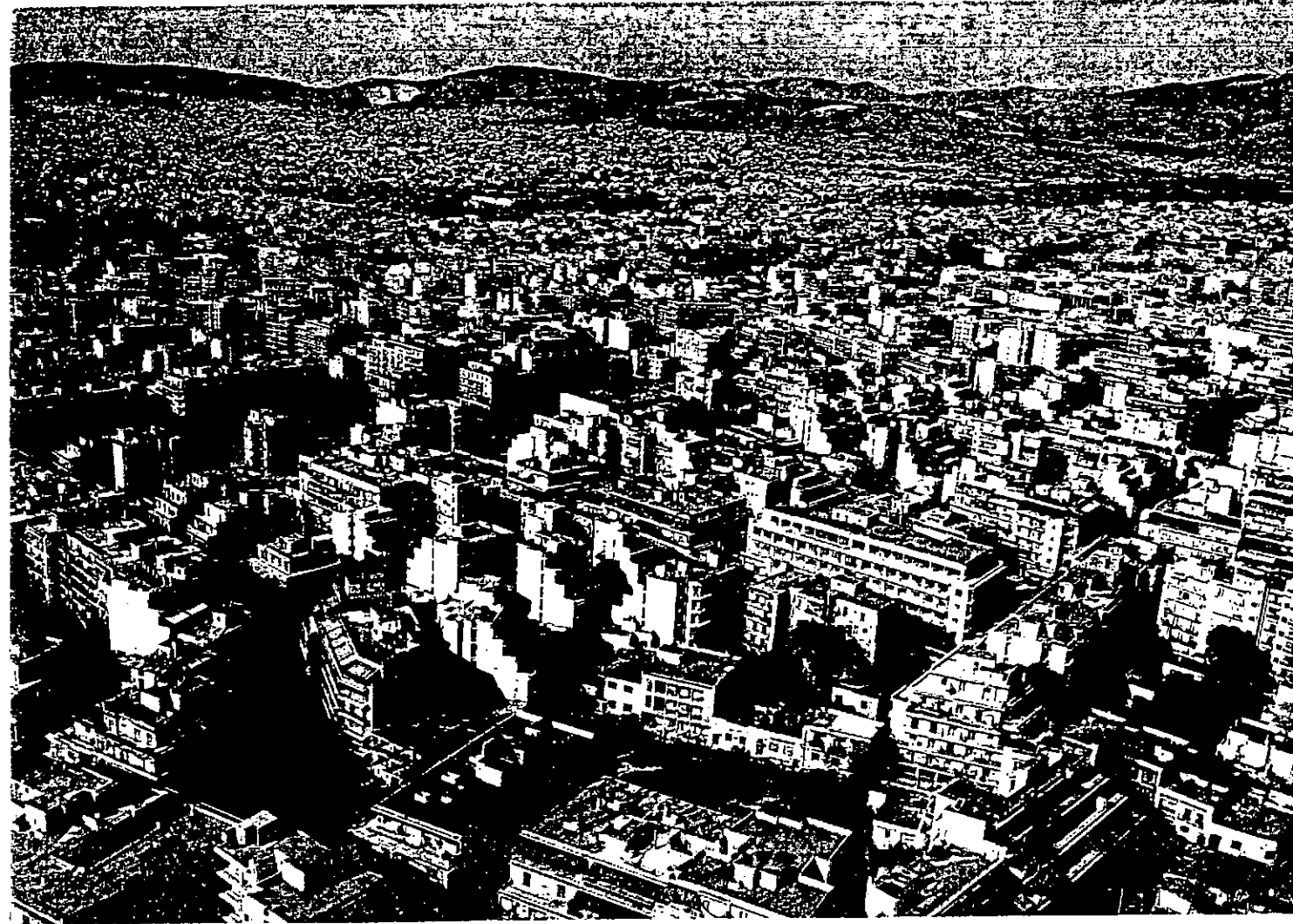
295.Examples of Open Public Spaces formations in Working Class settlements by
AOEK (source: Architecture in Greece 1985)

The extensive pedestrian streets network, and the squares and other Open Public Spaces were offered to the inhabitants again, and the architectural quality of historic buildings became perceivable. This first example led to the attempt for similar studies in Psiri, Metaxourgio, etc, but with not integrated applications.

The conclusion gathered from this period is, that the political change and the enforcement of Municipalities' responsibilities led to many interventions in Open Public Spaces on local level: road's pedestrianizations with the relevant formations civic and cultural centers, formation of empty natural spaces such as old quarries, or re-use of ex-industrial installation in order to create cultural and recreational spaces etc.

However, the design quality of these spaces, as far as Landscape Architecture, the formation of Open Spaces and the design of street furniture are concerned, usually were not satisfactory.

On a district level, the rehabilitation of Plaka's area and the reformation of its Open Public Spaces projected the spatial quality and integration of the entire area and thus consisted a model for similar cases.



296. View of Athens in 1980 (source: author's collection)

3.7. ATHENS DURING THE DECADE 1980 – 1990

Internal political development

3.7.1. General

During this period, in the political scene, the change in the country's government from New Democracy to PASOK, and the personality of A. Papandreou were the dominant features. Relevant alterations took place in economy, social policy, foreign policy, etc, but without unsettling the democratic regime.

On 1st of January 1981, Greece became a full member of the European Community.

PASOK won the elections of October 1981, with 48% following a continuous, upward course since 1977, and having as motto the word "Allagi" (Change).

The PASOK government, as an indication of its reformative intentions, proposed and passed new Bills, almost in all sectors of Public life (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

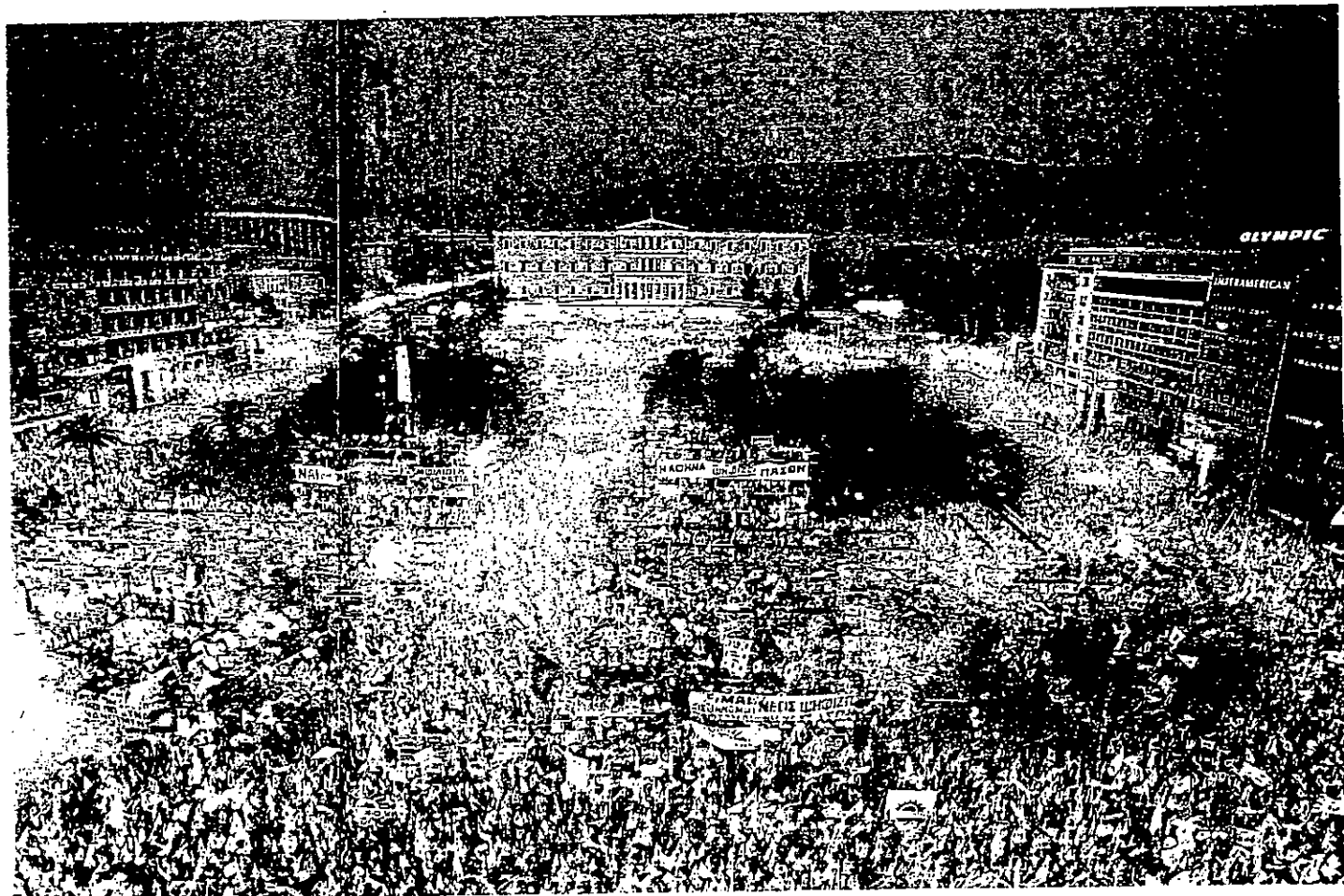
In 1982, the National Resistance was legally recognized initiating the repatriation of exiled Greeks, while modifications in the civil and criminal code, were proposed.

The relations with Turkey went through a critical period concerning the Aegean, and this tension would last till 1987, in the area of Foreign Policy. In 1983, Greece undertook the presidency of the EEC for a term, and expanded intense diplomatic activity, with a number of international initiatives, such as the consolidation of relations with neighbouring countries, the six Leader Group for nuclear disarmament, the Third World, the Middle East, etc (Ligeros, 1999).

In the area of the European Communities, PASOK'S changed approach from its initial negative actions, led to significant economic advantages, and the improvement of the farmers' financial position.

In the Public sector, the National Health System was established and, despite the problems that emerged, it still proved to be a significant progress.

In 1985, Ch. Sartzetakis has been elected as President of the Democracy, while PASOK won the elections again that year.



297. The PASOK pre-election assembly in Syntagma Square, in 1981 (source:
Publication in the Press)

The economic and social policy of PASOK, with benefits to those of average and lower incomes (1981–1983) was modified due to the big deficits in the economy. It led to an austerity policy (1985 – 1987), and again to a benefits' policy (1987–1989), which was intensely criticized, as important political and economic decisions were taken, having as a criterion the satisfaction of the electorate, (Lyritzis, 1999).

For the following years, the bad economic situation, remained uncontrollable, due to the drachma's instability.

The de-industrialization of Greece started, since the mid 80's, in the context of the South Europe broader region's economic realignments, with hard consequences on the employment sector and Regional development. At the same time, the period of penetration of Greek capital and companies into former socialistic countries, started in a wide range of business activities. In this period, "problematic companies" appeared, i.e. those being with Public debt, that appealed to the State for rehabilitation, a fact that further added financial burden to the economy.

In Foreign relations, the tension with Turkey continued, with war riots at the frontiers and in the Aegean in 1986 and 1987.

During the '80s, in the context of the Common Agrarian Policy of the EEC, with quotas, subsidies etc, the number of people employed in agriculture was decreased, resulting in the desertization of the countryside and the expansion of the cities (Demathas, 1999).

In 1987, a crisis in the relationships between the State and Church, appeared due to a dispute over Church's land property.

The income policy changed direction, while in October of the same year, a scandal broke out, about wire tapings of conversations of political figures.

1988 began with the meeting of prime ministers of Greece and Turkey. The political scenery however, was overshadowed by the major heart operation of A. Papandreou in London, and his weakness to control current development along with the criminal prosecution against the businessman G. Koskotas for the financial misappropriation of the Creta Bank, which was publicized as a major economical scandal.

In 1989, the Party "League of the Left and Progress" was founded, aiming to unify the Left powers, and acted as a regulating factor after the elections. In the elections of June, the New Democracy won (with 44,3%), and collaborated with the League for the formation of the government (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).



298. A protest against the economic measures, in Syntagma Square (January 1987)

(source: Kathimerini)

The Parliament committed A. Papandreou to give testimony at the Supreme Court, for the case of the wire tapings and economic scandals, while the terrorist organization "17th November" murdered the politician P. Bakoyannis. The second elections of November 1989, elected the New Democracy (46,6%), but as it did not assemble a parliamentary majority, an all party government was formed under X. Zolotas.

However, in the elections of April 1990, New Democracy won again, with a marginal majority but now able to form a government.

3.7.2. The Social Structure

The reformations, which PASOK had applied to the whole spectrum of political life, during the first four-year governmental period, caused a big alteration in the social structure (Lyritzis, 1999).

After decades of conservative governments, the rise of PASOK, offered large parts of the population, which were supplanted and neglected, the possibility to participate in power, by incorporating peripheral socio-economic groups in the center of the policy, economy and society.

However, in the context of protective stateism, a mentality of sectional interests was cultivated.

The economic position of the farmers was also improved, thanks to European benefits, provided via agrarian cooperatives.

The institutional and cultural changes in the civil and criminal penal code, and the repatriation of exiled Greeks, and mainly the modifications in the applied economic policy, aiming to satisfy the working classes (populism), increased PASOK'S voters' support and at the same time created a positive psychology to them.

The redistribution of authority and the economic provisions made, created classes of socially and economically uprising people, as well as, new mentalities and politico-economic attitudes. These attitudes, combined with claims for conservation of vested rights, produced a network of guild relationships and influences which were maintained until the end of the decade.



299. Painting by N. Kessanlis (1988) (source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)

All these brought radical changes to Greek Society, in its mentality and political culture. The “non privileged” were offered possibility and chance to succeed, and to progress socially and economically (Lyritzis, 1999).

In the ‘80s, the impacts of de-industrialization and the evolution of the tertiary sector, were apparent in the social structure. The traditional working class districts of Athens, gradually lost their proletariat character. Working class populations moved to the central districts, and the social structure of the various areas of Athens gradually changed. The only areas that kept their bourgeois homogeneity were Kolonaki and the suburbs of Psychico and Philothei, while the areas that maintained a clear working class character were Perama, Kamatero, Haidari, Korydallos (Nicolaidou, 1993).

3.7.3. The spirit of the times

PASOK based its popularity on the electorate and on its radical proposal for socialistic reformation of the Greek society, concentrating on declarations in pursuit of “people’s domination, national independence and social justice”, which aimed the reinforcement and representation of the “non privileged” Greeks. In this way, PASOK achieved the unification of different political powers, originating from the political parties of the Center, the traditional Left, or the Resistance powers (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

The effect of the gifted personality of A. Papandreou on the working classes, was significant, at least in the first period of government.

Political culture and values went through a gradual change, caused by the economic policy and the communicational practice of PASOK.

The development produced, up to a certain point, the demystification of the Left ideals, and a credibility crisis of the political world, with consequences in the critical position of society and its remoteness from the political parties.

In the sector of foreign policy, after a period of distance from the Community’s selections, in the period of 1985-1989, there was an amalgamation of Greek and Communal choices, concerning the re-negotiation of the convergence agreement and the strengthening of the Government’s European physiognomy (Rozakis, 1999).



300. Scene from Evripidis' "Troades" in Epidavros by Art Theater (1980) (source: Kathimerini)



301. Scene from L. Anagnostaki's "The sound of the weapon" by Art Theater (1987) (source: Kathimerini)

In this way, the country gradually abandoned its isolation and was placed among the European Communities and their economic policies.

The '80s, was marked by a revolution in the area of mass communication, with a determinative development for the operation of Greek political and daily life. The monopoly of State Radio and Television ceased and the liberalization and pluralism in Mass Communication Media would henceforth compose two significant factors of Greece's public life, with intense influence on their functions (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

In the area of Education, the modifications that PASOK initiated, in 1981, were related to the laxity of disciplinary principles applied in schools, the abolition of the institution of the "chair" at the Universities (L. 1268/82) and the establishment of a new structure, with the Department as the main unit, the upgrading of all the "Highest Schools" (Colleges) to Universities (Pantios, Commercial School, etc) and the founding of three new Universities (Ionio, Thessaly, Aegean) (Dimaras, 1999).

The problems created, were related to the "mass production" of the educational procedures, due to the large increase of pupils and students, and the increase of University Departments.

In Technical Education, the KATEE were replaced in 1983, by the Technological Educational Institutions (TEI), with some university functional elements, but on a technical level.

In Literature, as the critic P. Boukalas noted, this period was characterized by some special features :

"Concession of committed poetry, intensification of textuality, reduction of ancient Greek and historic references, a tendency towards a denationalized poetic speech, limitation of the supervision of space – time in the individual element and the decrease of material viewing and the world's visionary restructures" (Garantoudis, 1999).

Some of the most important works of this period, were :

- 1980. M. Alexandropoulos : Small guide for repatriation, P. Tatsopoulos : The juveniles, Ch. Milionis : Western district, T. Varvitsiotis : Synopsis A-B, M. Ganas : Black Stones.
- 1981. M. Meskos : Black Forest, N. Aslanoglou : Odes to the prince, E. Vacalo : Before lyricism, J. Ioannou : Multiple fractures.



302.Scenes from Greek movies in the '80s
(source: Cinema magazine)

1982. G. Giatzomanolakis : History, M. Koumantareas : The handsome captain, E. Fakinou : Astradeni.
1983. D. Haritopoulos : The children of the swallow, T. Kazatzis : The protagonists, A. Panselinos : Stories of dogs, K. Gissomoulis : The woodcutter fever.
1984. G. Himonas : My travels, J. Ioannou : The capital of refugees, Z. Zateli : The fiancée of the last years.
1985. Ch. Missios : You have died early, Al. Kotzias : Imaginary adventure, V. Raptopoulos : The cicadas, A. Frangias : The crowd, N. Pentzikis : Mother Salonica, Th. Valtinos : Deep blue, almost black, A. Sourounis : The first die last, N. Houliaras : Life, another time.
1986. R. Galanaki : concentric short stories, M. Kassolas : The rotten water, M. Sahtouris : Ectoplasms.
1987. A. Zei : Achilles' fiancée, N. Bacolas : The big square. N. Kasdaglis : The nest, Sp. Tsaknias : The occasion and other short stories.
1988. T. Athanassiadis : Niovi's children, M. Fakinou : Byzantine patrol, T. Patrikios : Facing mirrors, G. Pavlopoulos : The master keys.
1989. K. Mourselas : Dyed red hair, N. Vagenas : The fall of the flying, N. Vassiliades : Agathos, Or. Alexakis : The registrar.

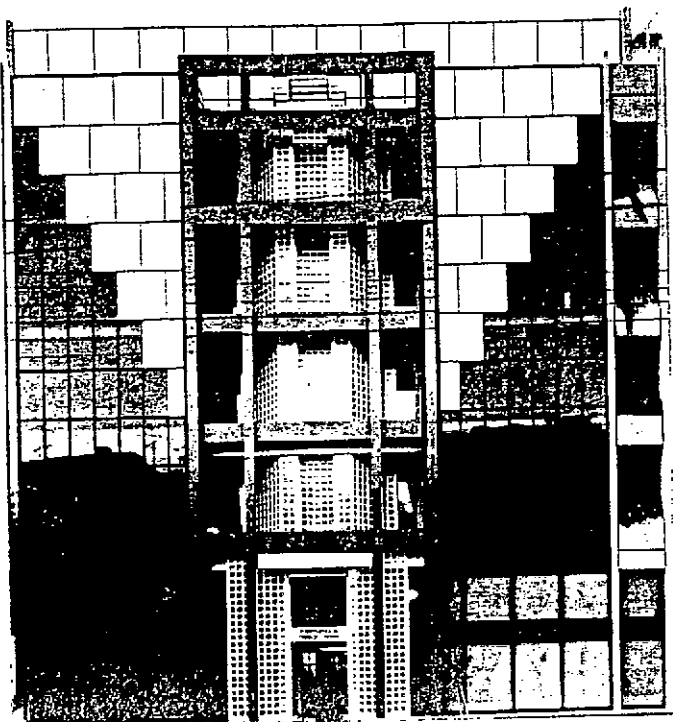
In Fine Arts, an intense activity was noted : Museums were founded (Museum of Cycladic Art, Vorre's, Yannis Tsarouchis', Averof Gallery), Art Galleries (Il. Tounda, Skironio center in Kifissia, Vafopoulio Center and the Cultural center in Salonica).

Many exhibitions of contemporary artists, and retrospective of older ones, have been organized (Pavlopoulos, 1999).

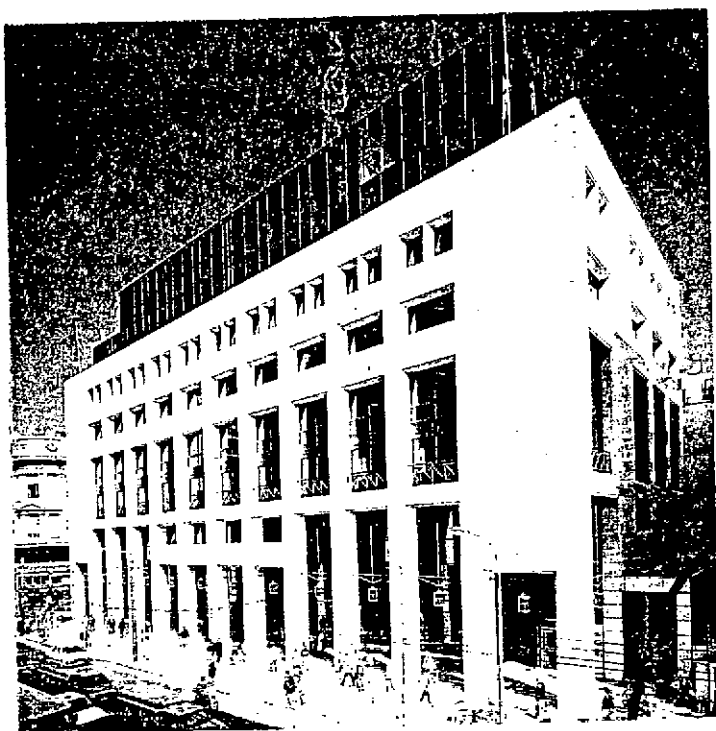
In 1983, the Minister of Culture M. Merkouri, internationally activated the request for return of the sculptures from the Parthenon, (Elgin marbles) while the 3rd Architectural competition for the Acropolis Museum was announced.

This decade was the era of art expansion of interventions in space (V. Kaniaris), through Computer Technology (P. Xagoraris) and video (A. Scourtis, M. Strapatsaki).

Since the mid-'80s works of Land Art, on a restricted scale, also appeared (J. Bouteas, G. Tsakiris, M. Spiliopoulos). In this period, the presentation of installations were prolific, with combinations of real and constructed objects,



303. Office building in Kallithea (A. Christofelis, 1986, source: author's photograph)



304. Credit Bank headquarters (N. Valsamakis, 1984, source: author's photograph)

combining the use of high technology in order to create phantasmagoric impressions (K. Tsoclis, J. Bouteas, K. Varotsos) and Performances (Thodoros, A. Prodromidis, L. Samaras). Some Greek artists acting abroad were distinguished for their work in the organization of space, and were incorporated in international art movements (S. Antonakos, Chryssa, Takis, J. Kounelis).

In the Engraving sector, huge works were produced with contemporary technology, applying a combination of techniques to 3-dimensional compositions (X. Sahinis, V. Tsalamata, L. Gavriilidou) (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

With regards to Music, the song was changing, as the "artistic popular song" appeared to be declining, while a humorous "new popular song" emerged (M. Rassoulis, N. Xydakis, M. Kraounakis, Nicolacopoulou and others).

Former composers (Hatzidakis, Theodorakis, Savvopoulos, Xarhakos, Markopoulos, Kouyoumtzis, Spanos) followed their personal path, while young rock groups were enthusiastically received.

In the University of Athens, the Department of Musical Studies was established, while theoretical studies attempted the appraisal of two centuries of Greek music.

On the international scene, V. Papathanassiou was honoured with the Oscar prize for his music in the movie of "Chariots of Fire".

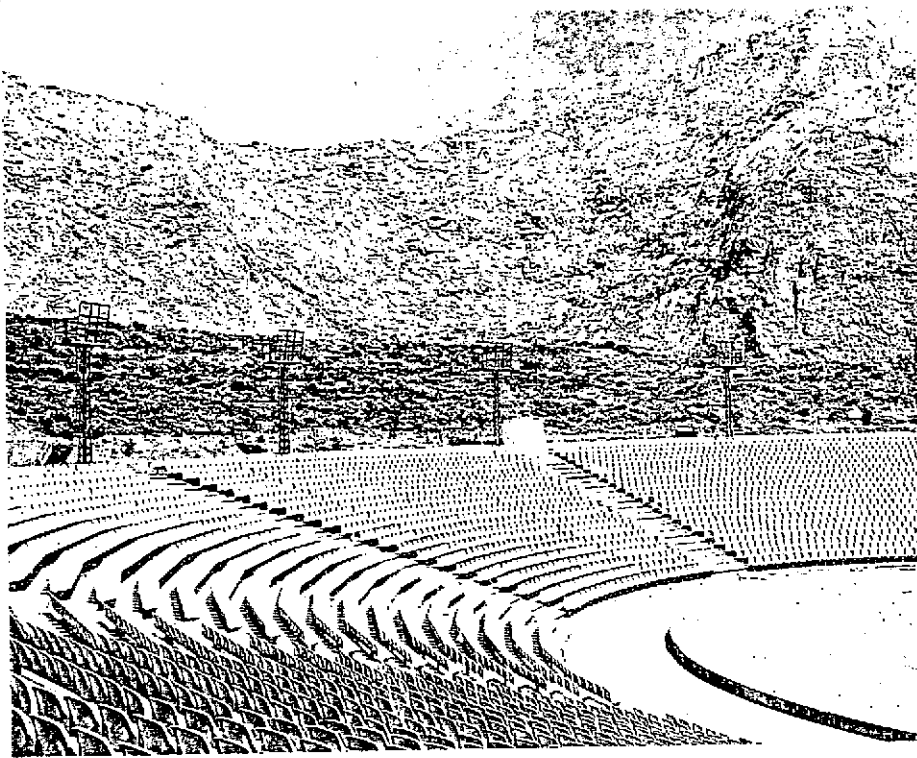
In Theater, this period was characterized by the function of new institutions which contributed to the evolution of the Theater, and the foundation of the Municipal and Regional Theaters (DIPETHE).

The establishment of new companies was also predominant feature of this period. Most of these companies, acquired their own theatrical space and contributed with of their work, to a deep questioning and views of theatrical life. (L. Voyatzis, V. Papavassiliou, Theater of South, J. Houvardas, Attis of Th. Terzopoulos, Spectacle of J. Kakleas and others).

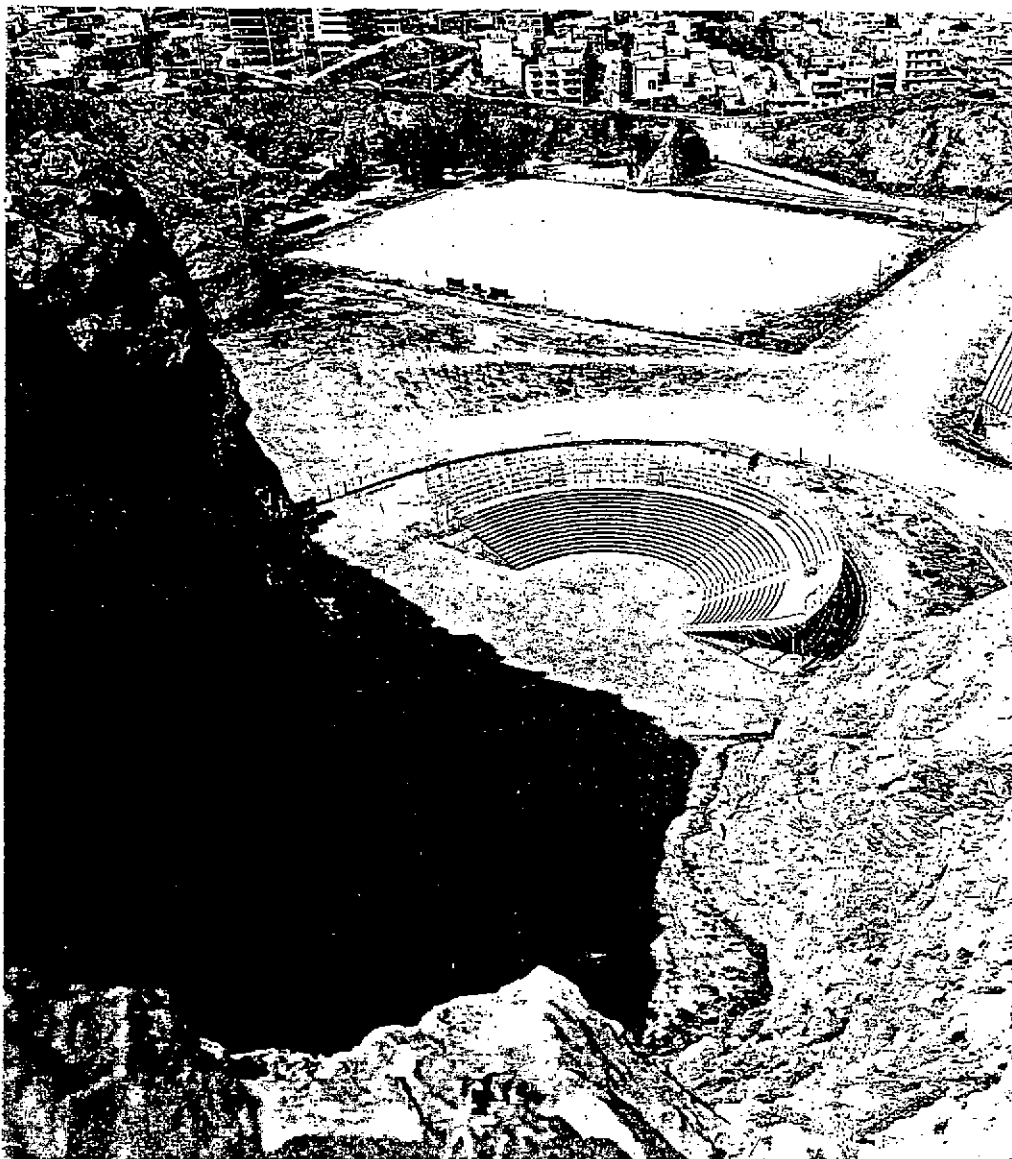
At the same time, groups of well known artists continued their creative production, while revue appeared with new spirit (Mavromoustakos, 1999).

The production of the Contemporary Greek playwriting was significant during this period. Among the new playwrights were, G. Armenis, K. Vergou, A. Staikos, P. Korovessis, R. Georgakopoulou and others.

In the area of Cinema, Greek production was characterized by existential research into various thematic directions : the one trend was oriented towards the



305. Theater in Nikea's former quarries (1980) (source: Ministry of Culture 1989)



306. Theater in Hymettus – Byron former quarries (1986) (source: Ministry of Culture 1989)

contemporary achievements of western civilization, while another trend was devoted to the Greek Orthodox tradition, to the demotic language and popular morals, and to new and popular music and tradition (M. Katsounaki, 1999).

Greek directors won international prizes, (Th. Angelopoulos in Venice, K. Ferris in Berlin). Some of the most significant movies of the Greek Cinema, in this period, were :

- 1980. Th. Angelopoulos : Megalexandros, N. Tzimas : The Man with the carnation.
- 1981. Fr. Liappa : The night roads of love. T. Psarras : The industry, L. Papastathis : The Era of Greeks.
- 1982. N. Perrakis : Slap – Dash!
- 1983. K. Ferris : Rembetico.
- 1984. Th. Angelopoulos : Travel to Kithira, T. Marketaki : The price of love.
- 1985. P. Voulgaris : The stone years, V. Vafea : The love of Odysseus.
- 1986. Th. Angelopoulos : The bee keeper, T. Psarras : Karavan Serai, D. Avdeliodis : The tree which we hurt.
- 1987. L. Papastathi : Theophilos, St. Torne : A heron in Germany.
- 1988. Th. Angelopoulos : Landscape in the fog, G. Karypidis : in the shade of fear.
- 1989. N. Panagiotopoulos : The woman who saw dreams, R. Galanaki : The life of Ismail F. Pasha.

In the field of Architecture, a clear Post Modern influence was noticed, simultaneously with a renewal of the Modern Movement, the Late Modern. The Post Modern movement was an attempt to investigate new directions and morphological expressions, to achieve a re-interpretation and enrichment of the Modern, as a reaction to the curtness and the dead locks of Modernism. However, in most cases, the research did not have a direct target and usually ended in “New – Neoclassical” morphological formulations for consuming purposes.

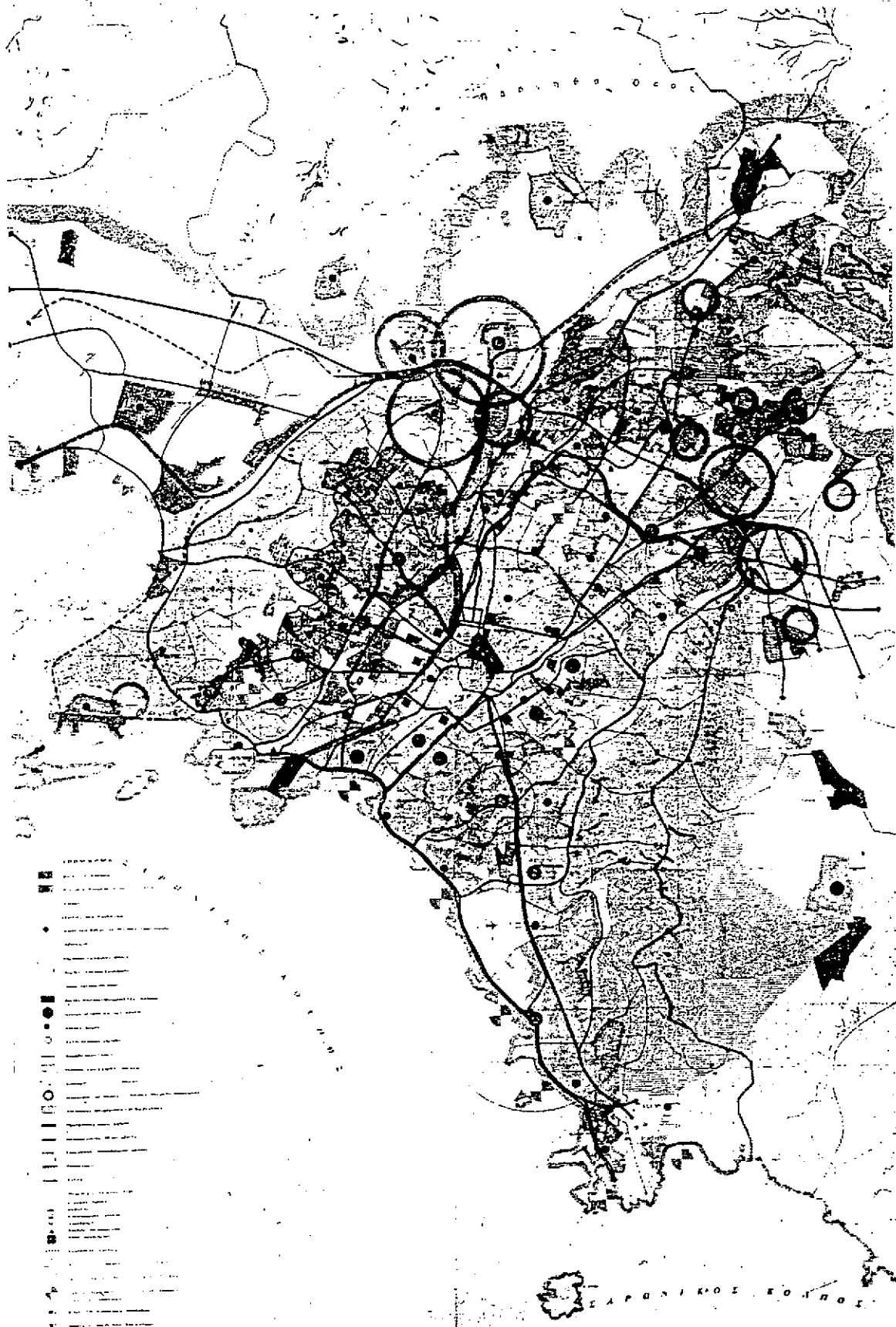
Nevertheless, in certain cases, the incorporation of the meanings of space or forms of the historic past, lent a quality to the architectural result. Late Modernism, combined with indigenous vernacular, was established as a trend of Public Architecture in the 1980s. Examples were, the building of the Administration of the Credit Bank in Athens (N. Valsamakis) and the Museum of Byzantine Civilization in Salonica (K. Krokos) (Athens’ Ekdotiki, 2000).

ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΧΩΡΟΤΑΞΙΑΣ
ΟΙΚΙΣΜΟΥ & ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ
8 νοή πόλεοδομικών μελετών
μεϊζονος πρωτευουσας

ΔΟΜΙΚΟ ΣΧΕΔΙΟ ΠΡΟΤΑΣΗ ΧΡΗΣΕΙΣ ΓΗΣ

ΙΟΥΛΙΟΣ 1983

ΚΑΙΜΑΚΑ 1:25,000



The interest in originality and technology, and the relationships with the anti-rational tradition of Modernism, were exemplified in many design proposals, and in architectural competitions by T. and D. Biris and P. Kokkoris, N. Valsamakis, Al. Tombazis, while a pictorial and “enriched” expression of architecture was applied in the recent works of D. and S. Antonakakis and their team, in the faculty of Humanities of the University of Crete (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993).

In January 1984, the 8th PanHellenic Architectural Congress has been organized, its subject being “The Problem of Residence”, attempting to investigate the evolution of the Habitat the situation in Greek Towns, in suburban areas, where the residential areas consist the majority of the built environment.

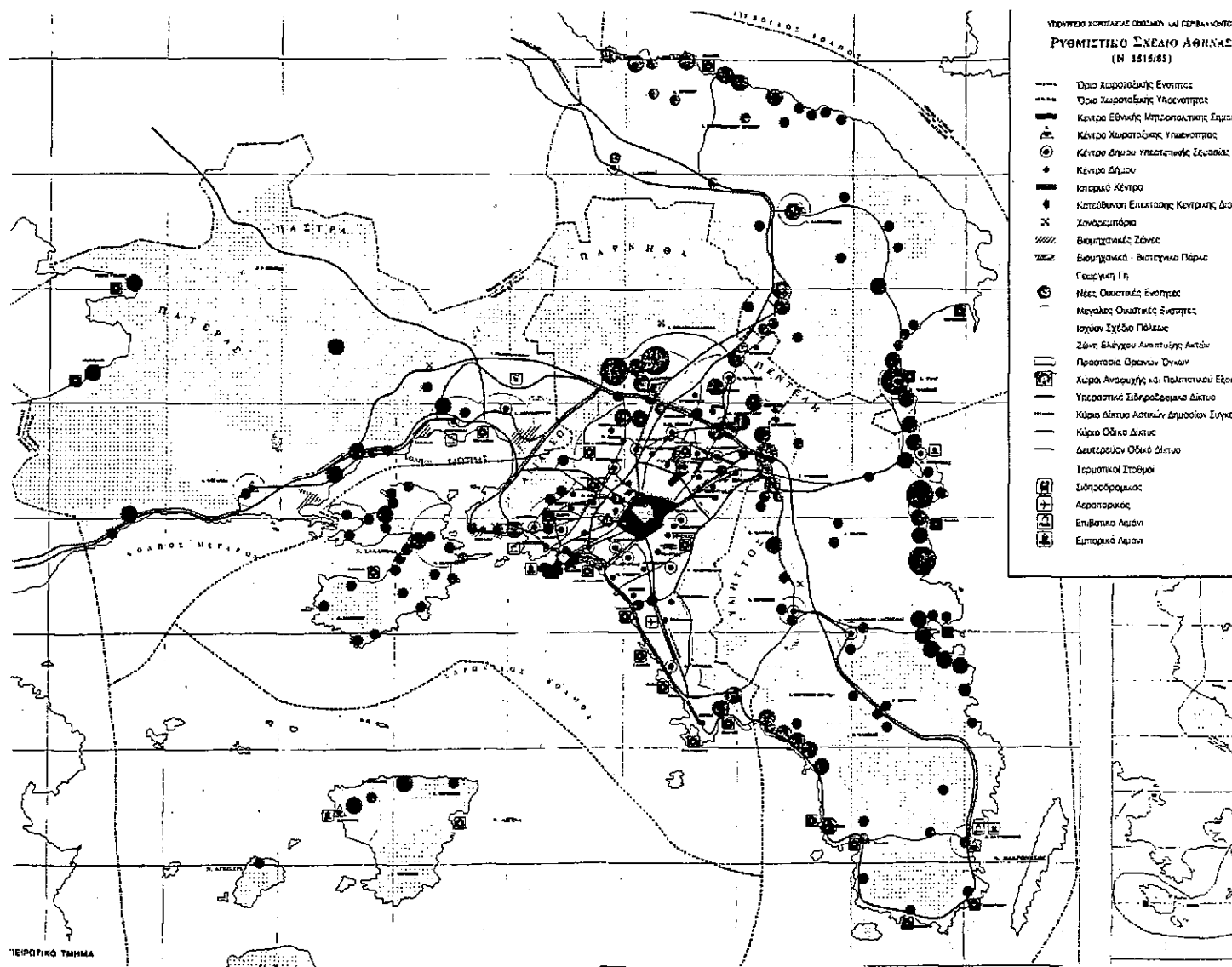
The interventions referred to items as the contemporary way of life, in present-day conditions in the city.

3.7.4. The city

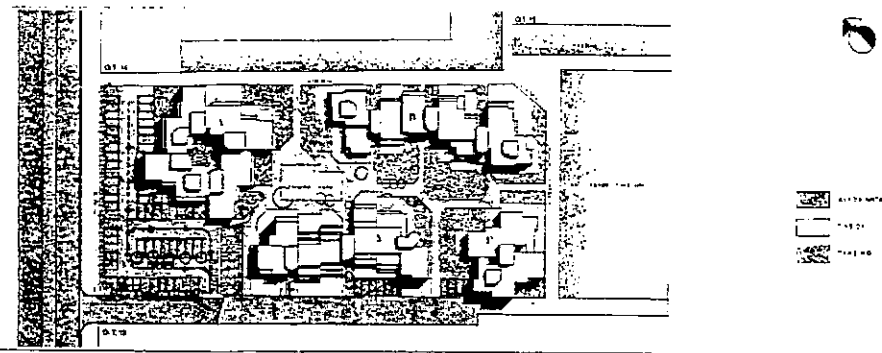
During this period, the formulations of commercial and tertiary functions, began in Athens, by private initiatives along the circulatory axis of Kifissias avenue, from Ambelokipi to New Erithrea, and also on the coastal avenue Faliro – Vouliagmeni, in critical centers of the regions as Glyfada, Haidari, Korydallos etc, and in some parts of the National roads Lamias and Corinth, causing an overload of the basic arteries.

Besides, large ex-industrial areas, which were available along the axis of Piraeus street were also converted by private initiatives, to areas of recreation and cultural activities.

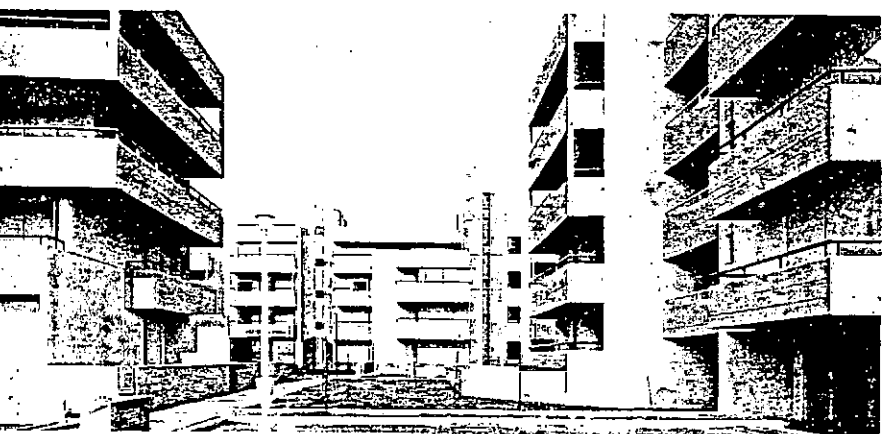
In 1983, the new Law 1337/83, instigated by the minister A. Tritsis was published. It established the Urban Planning of regions that were not contained in the City Plan, with a maximum of 0.8 as a Plot Ratio Coefficient and a gradation of contributions in land and money, relevant to the property size (social criteria). An application of this law was attempted by the ministry of Environment, Regional Planing and Public Works, in the expansion programmes of the country’s larger cities in relation to Urban Reconstruction. Unfortunately this ambitious attempt had extremely poor results, due to insufficient organization.



308. The Master Plan of Athens, as published by the Law 1515/85 (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



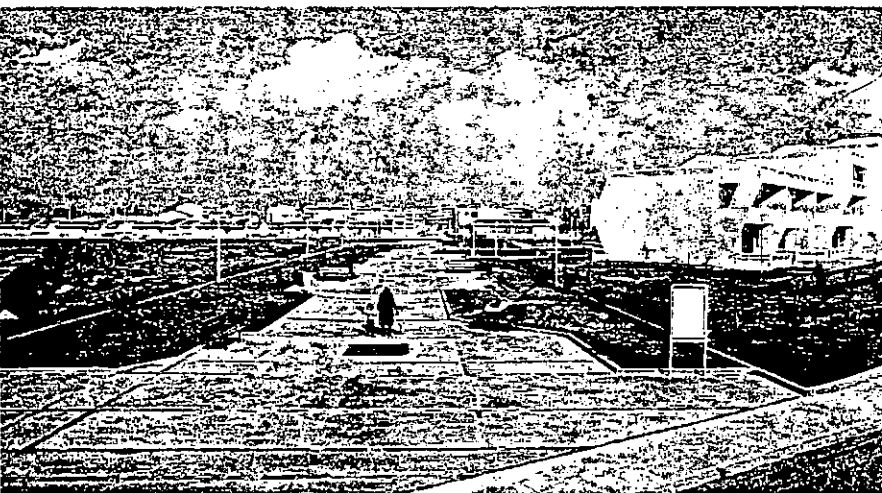
309.Examples of Open Public Spaces formation in Working Class settlements (1985)
 (source: Architecture in Greece 1987)



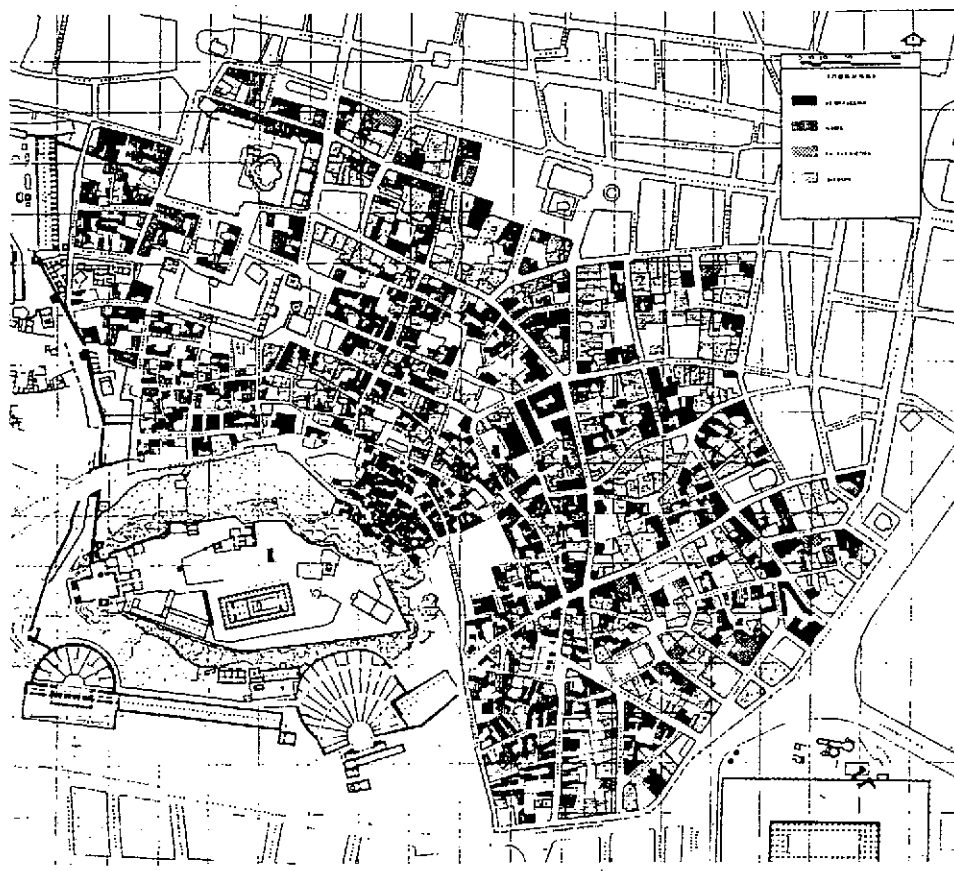
310.Examples of Open Public Spaces formation in Working Class settlements (1985)
 (source: Architecture in Greece 1987)



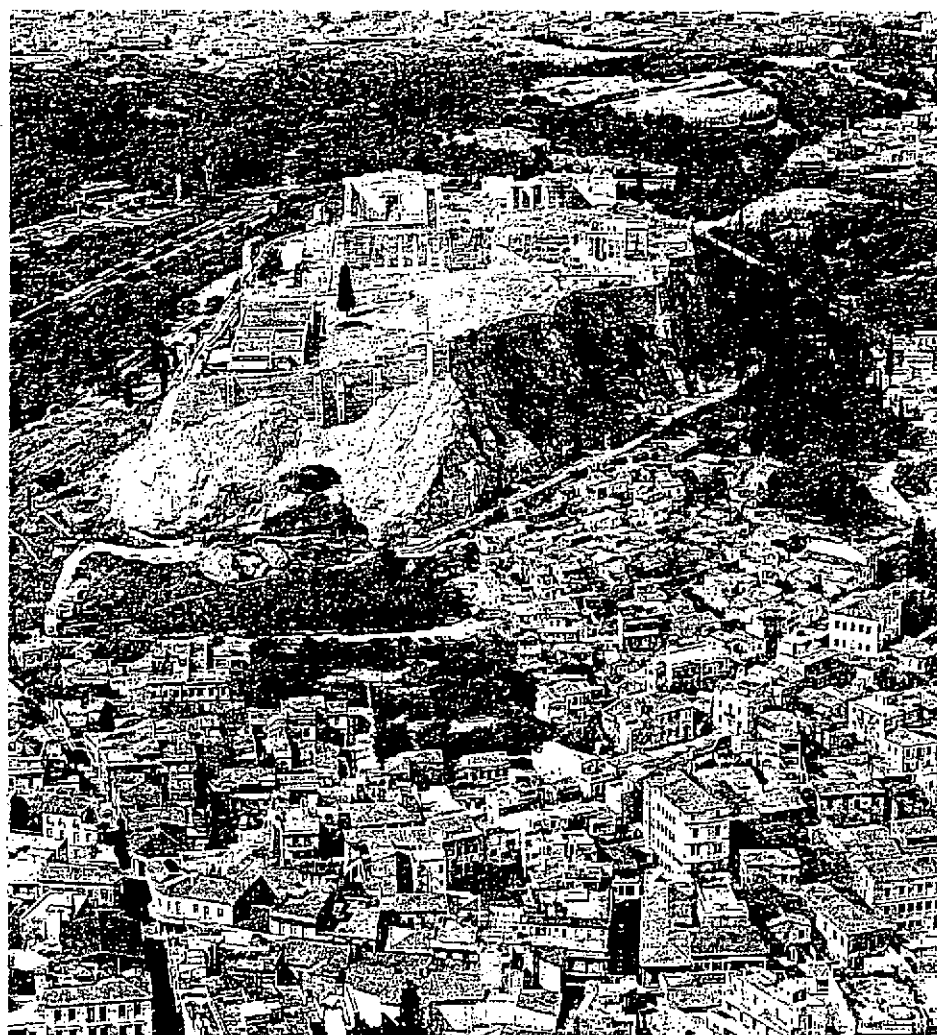
311.Examples of Open Public Spaces formation
 in Working Class settlements (1985)



312.Examples of Open Public Spaces formation in Working Class settlements (1985)
 (source: Architecture in Greece 1987)



313. The study of Plaka (prof. D. Zivas and associates) (source: Architecture in Greece)



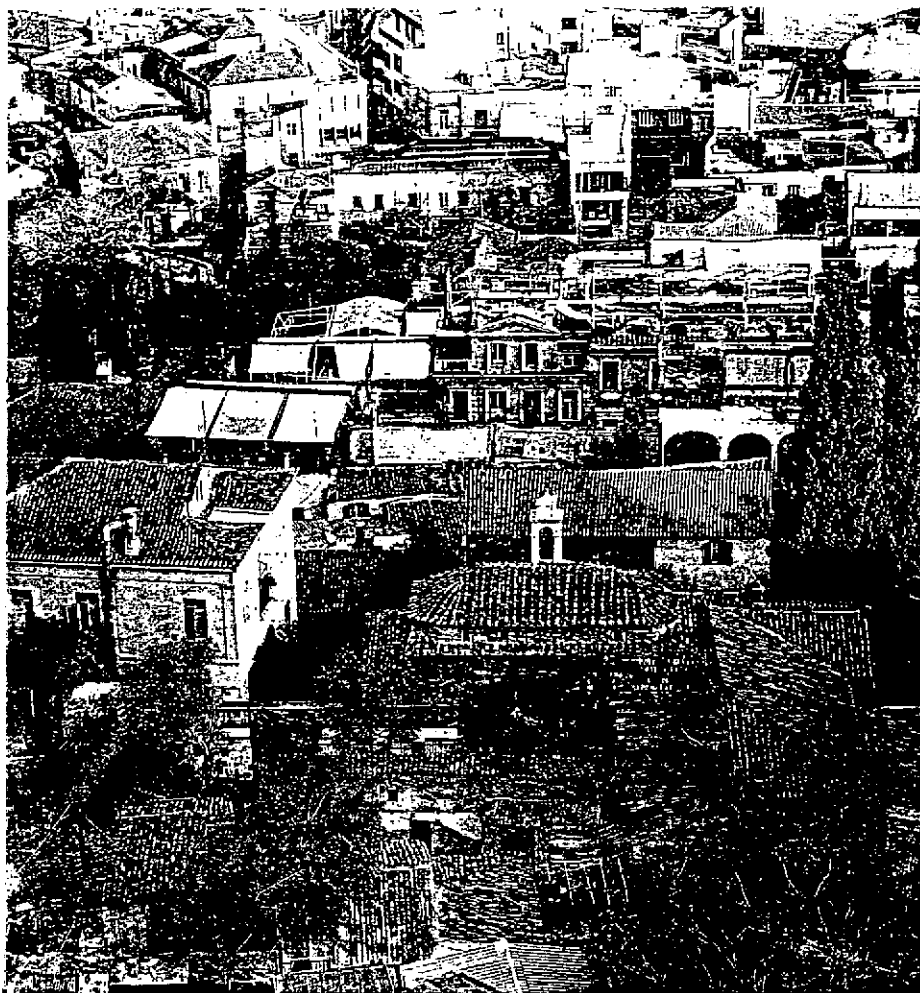
314. Aerial view of the Acropolis and the Plaka's area (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)



315.Plaka after the rehabilitation (source: author's photograph)



316.Plaka after the rehabilitation (source: author's photograph)



317. View of Plaka (source: author's photograph)



318. Kidathineon street after the reformation (source: author's photograph)

In 1985, the Presidential Decree concerning Construction Cooperations was published, assigning to them the responsibility to complete the infrastructure works of their respective areas.

In the same year, the New Building Regulation (GOK) was put into practice, providing a more flexible legislative framework with more possibilities in the formation of the building environment of Athens. This proved to be much more amendable than the previous GOK, which created the rigid lines of "walls" on street's construction alignment.

In the middle of the '80s, the project for the protection and reformation of Plaka (the old city of Athens) was finally completed, a fact that showed up the spatial qualities of this historical area of Athens. This project, carried out by professor D. Zivas and his associates, was the most successful project with regards to these development and despite the reactions and difficulties faced, it was effectively applied (Fessas – Emmanouil 1993).

In 1985, the Law 1515/85 concerning the Master Plan of Athens was published, consisting a clear and effective Legislative applied framework. Among others, it contained a general Regional layout of the Athens Basin, including many small local centers.

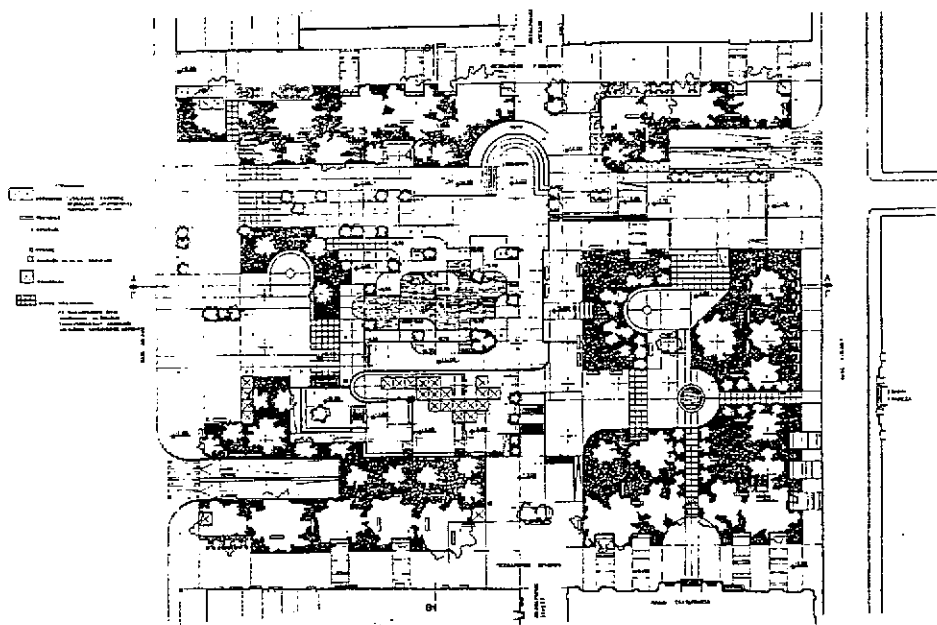
In the next was mentioned:

"For the recreation and leisure, it is proposed the creation of large over-local poles of recreational, athletic and cultural functions...". "Unification of recreational spaces, of open spaces and pedestrian roads, of historical and archaeological spaces, of green spaces and mountainous and coastal areas"...

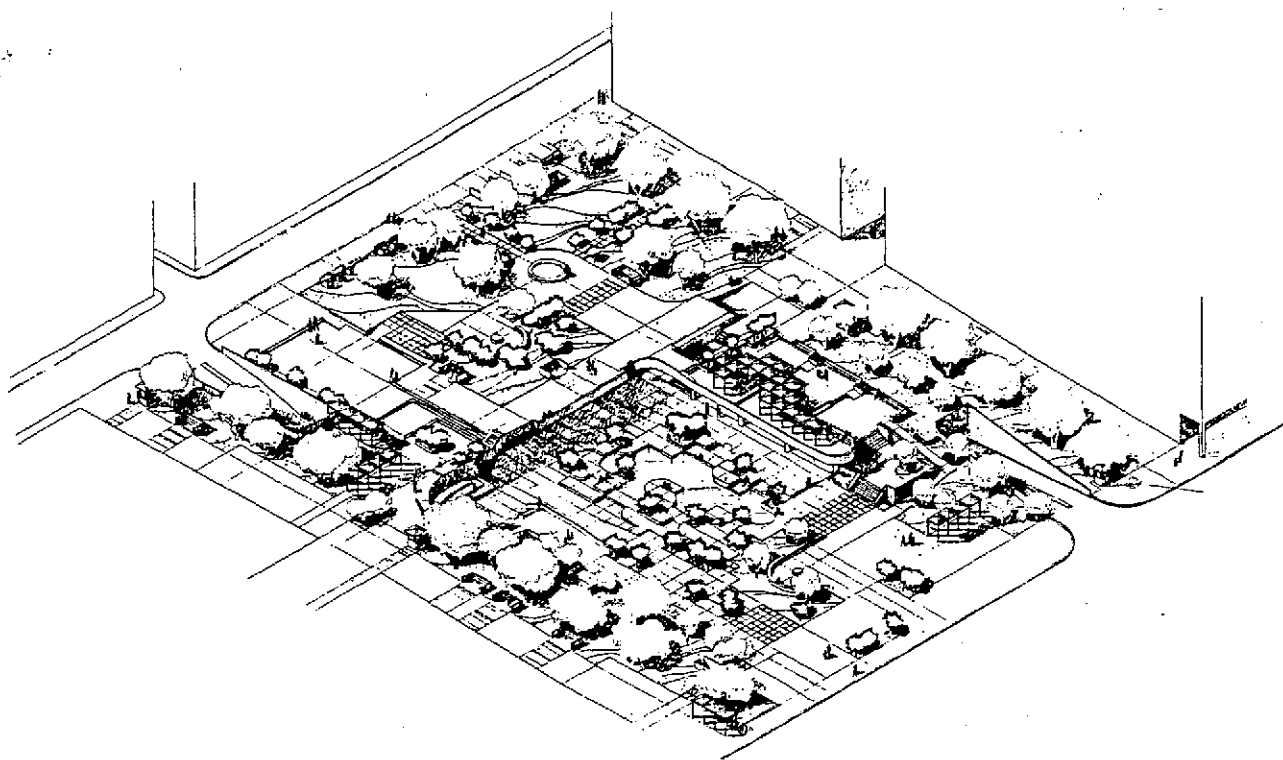
Later on, this law was replaced by the Law 2052/92. In the meanwhile, the circulation of automobiles continuously increased, without any measures taken for preventing car Parks to be built and providing a sufficient Public Transportation network. While A. Tritsis served as Minister, all relevant attempts proved futile.

In February 1987, a competition was announced for the construction of the underground train (Metro) and the tender "Olympic Metro" was accepted.

The plans for the creation of a large Convention and Touristic center in New and Old Faliro, a landfilled coastal zone, were brought back by the Public Land Company (KED) and the EKTENEPOL in 1986 and by the "Organization Athens" in 1989.



319. Kotzia Square as it was proposed in 1985 (source: Architecture in Greece 1986)



320. Kotzia Square as it was proposed in 1985 (source: Architecture in Greece 1986)

Large works were also programmed by the Lambrakis Press Organization in the space of the Freedom Park (previous EAT-ESA), for the creation of a Music and Opera Hall and by the State for the development of Ellinikon airport, (Glyfada), after its transfer to Spata area.

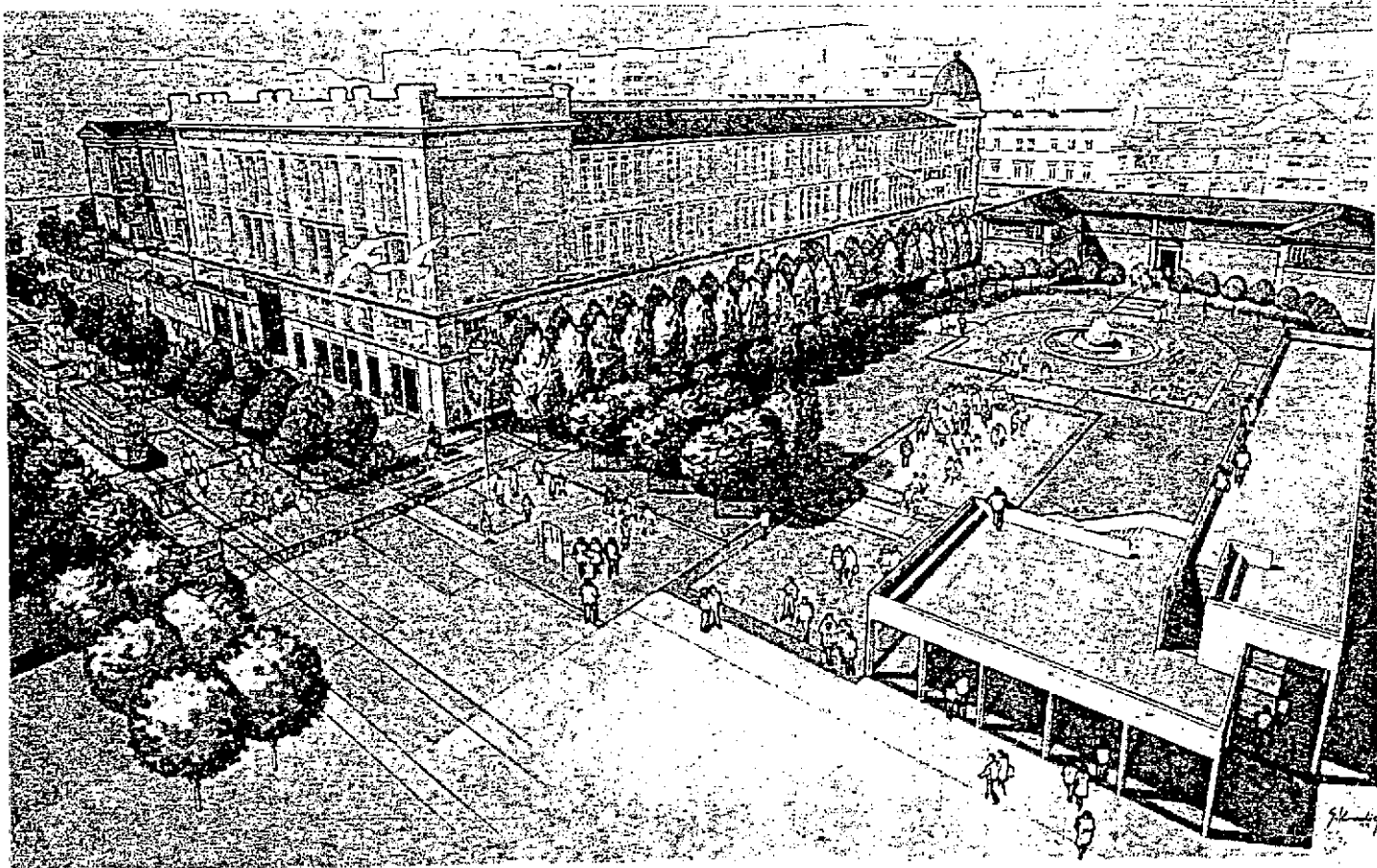
3.7.5. The Public Spaces

In Architecture, after 1980, there was a shifting of interest, from the isolated works, to middle and large scale interventions of the urban fabric. These interventions mostly proposed an architectural ethos in the formation of space, and a different quality of life for its inhabitants, as the redesign of sections of the Urban Landscape, were of vital importance.

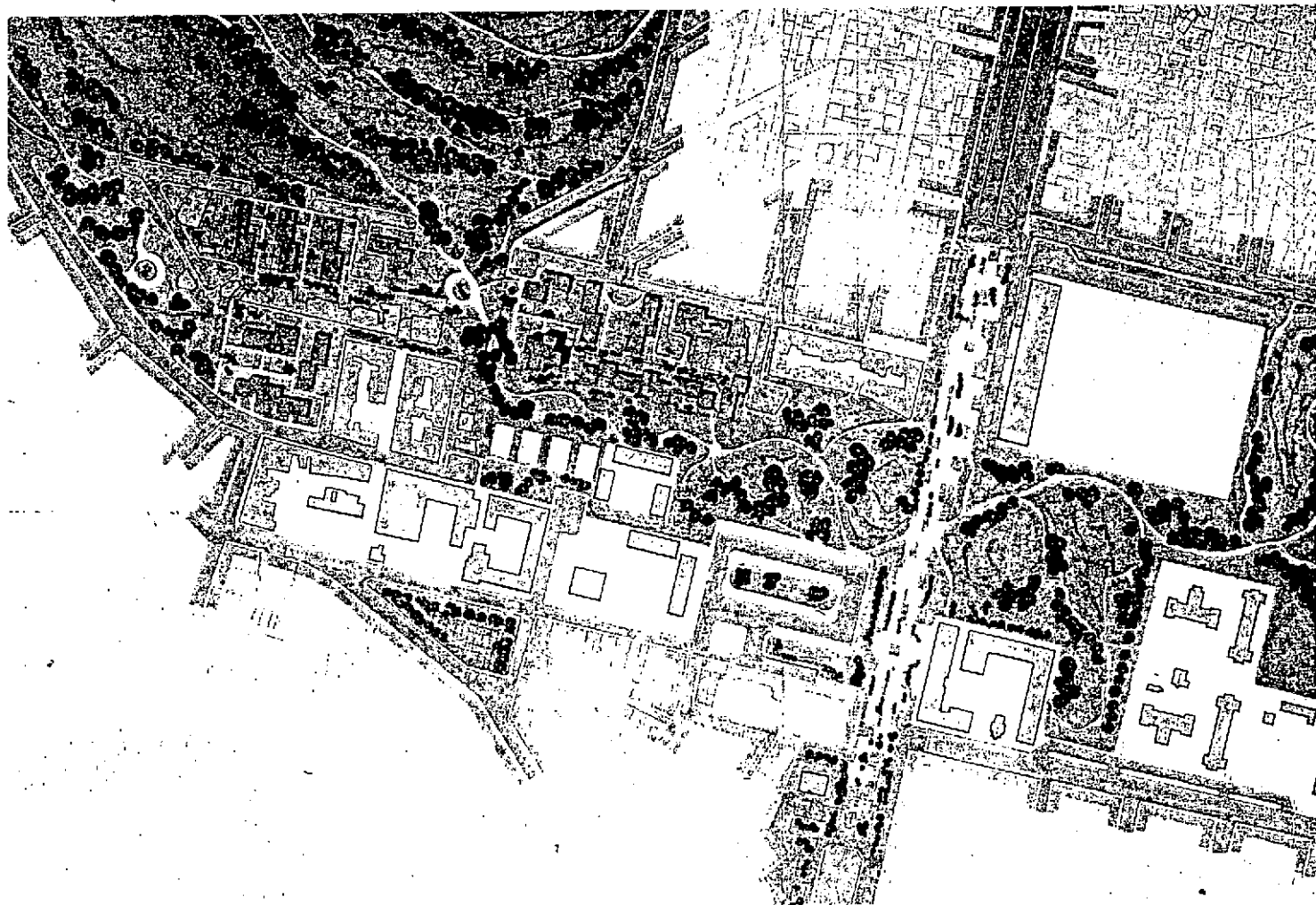
A large programme of creation of Open Public and Green Spaces, combined with leisure, was announced and planned by the Master Plan of 1985 (Law 1515/85).

This aimed to consist a network of over-local poles, i.e. a system of Green "Spaces of significant size, with leisure and cultural functions, such as :

- Unification of the central Archaeological sites, which would recognize and reform all Open and Green Spaces with historic monuments and ancient ruins, of the broader Acropolis area, with a continuous pedestrian promenade, in order to connect history to everyday life.
- Preservation of all large spaces which have been left unbuilt and construction of recreational areas. Such areas were the Park for Ecological Education, in the broader Athens area, planned to incorporate recreation, leisure and land formations with use of Green Spaces, water surfaces, light constructions etc, in order to create a place where inhabitants would become aware and sensitive to environmental issues.
- Installation works for the 2004 Olympic Games, which could produce extensive qualitative transformations of Attica Landscape at a variety of levels.
- Reformation of the Faliron coastal zone from Glyphada to Castella, with large scale landfills,
- The Park in Goudi, which used to be military barracks would be reformed, in order to offer multi-functional leisure.
- Tourkovounia with reformation of old quarries, (Attic Grove)



321. Proposal for the formation of a small square between Panepistimiou and Stadiou street (source: Master Plan '83, Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



322. Proposal for the formation of green spaces north of Lycabettus Hill (Kountouriotika - Alexandras) in 1982 (source: Master Plan '83)

- Penteli mountain, with reconstruction of Landscape,
- Egaleo mountain with reformation of the mountainous volume into a large park, having as centers the Salepitsari, Petroupolis and Korydallos quarries.
- Byron district quarries.
- The old Shooting ground in Kessariani
- The Saronicos' bay, coastal areas of Ag. Kosmas and the Anavissos salt – pans.
- The Botanical Garden in Iera Odos (Sacred Way)
- The Grove of Dafni Monastery

Most of these areas, are existing recreation poles of Athens' Basin, functioning temporarily or partially.

On the local level, there are also many occasions for creation of Open Public and Green Spaces in areas proposed for reformation.

- Creation of a united grid of green spaces which would unify, through the streams and the old quarries' spaces, Athens' green spaces with Open Public Spaces in the city's center.

In 1989, an Architectural Competition had been announced by the Municipality of Athens for the formation of the "Third Square", i.e., the square scheduled by Kleanthis and Schaubert in their first Urban Plan of Athens, and never had been constructed, as an unpaid indebtedness.

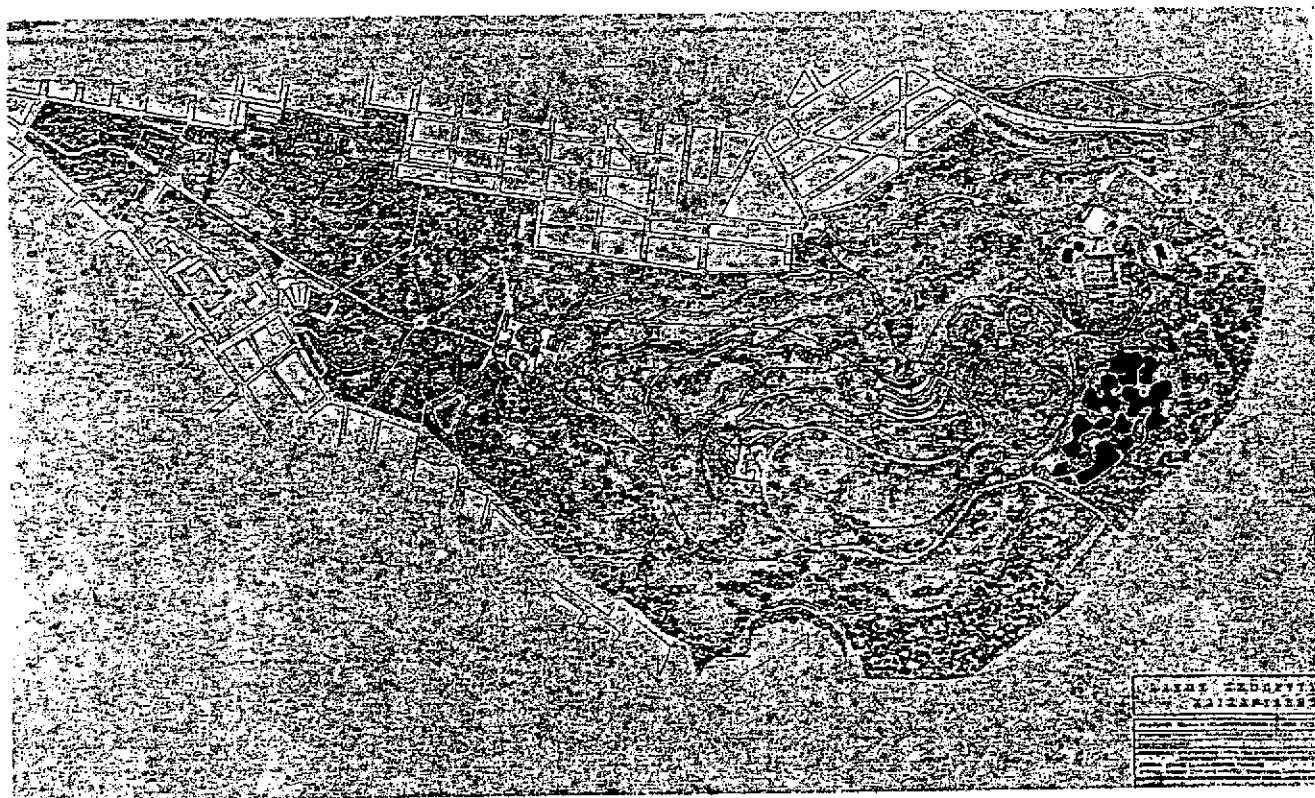
The first prize (M. Papadopoulou, Th., Kanarelis), proposed this square, which today is in a downgraded industrial region, as a "wide road" as a place full of symbolisms, which with its forms and specific functions will support the "connection" between the contemporary era with the ancient one.

At the end of this decade, embellishment works by the Municipality of Athens began in Syntagma square, including works such as pavement reconstruction etc, although the Metro construction works and relevant excavations were already scheduled. Nevertheless, these works did not change the general form of the square.

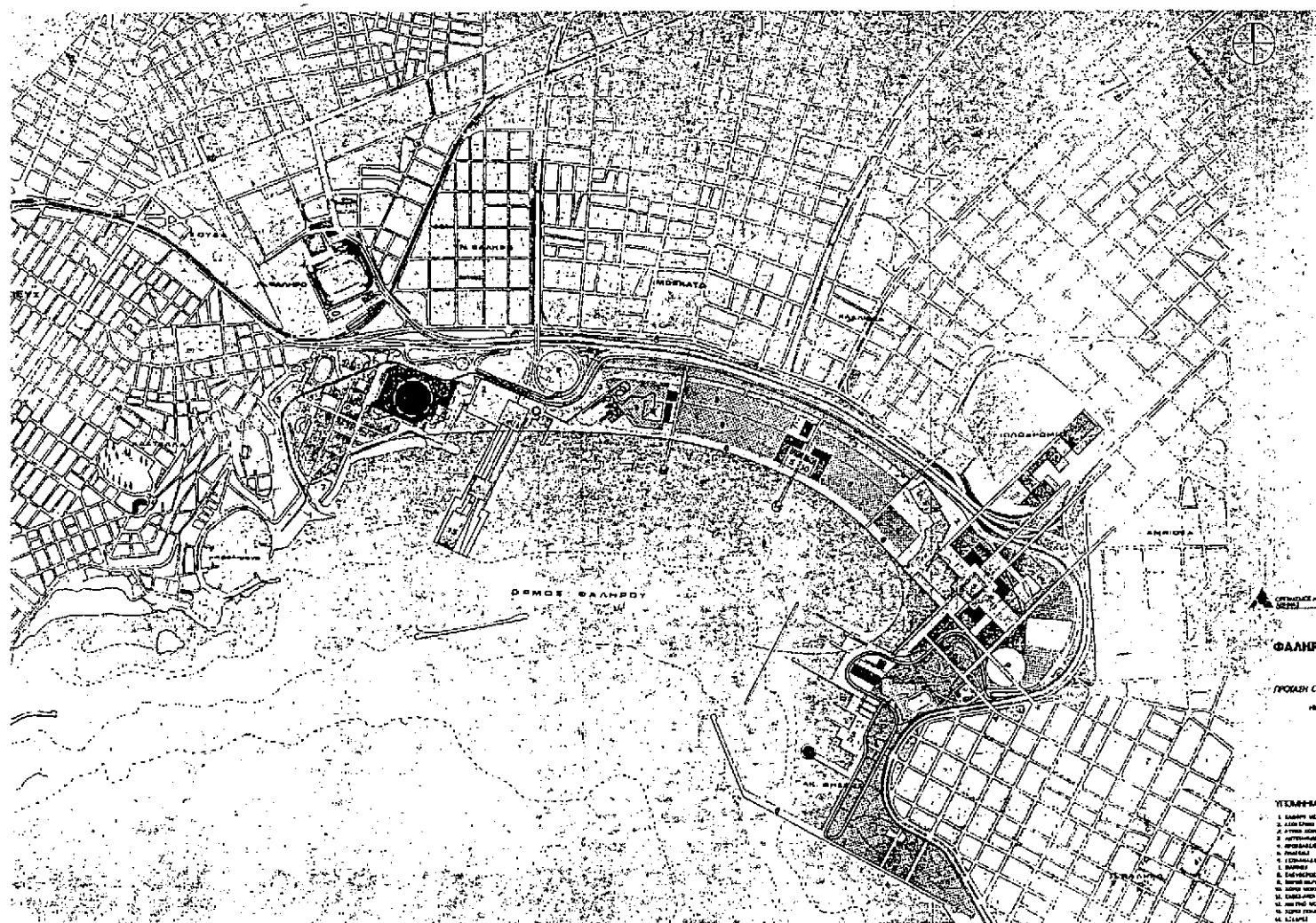
The conclusion from the examination of the Open Public Spaces of this period, is the shifting from small scale interventions to large reformation programmes which were announced.

Their study was assigned to various public and private offices, while their significance for the future of the city is immense.

It is obvious that, especially since the late '80s, there is an increasing attempt to provide solutions to all problems related to Town planning, Open Public Spaces,



323. Proposal for the formation of former military camp in Chaidari into a leisure park
(1980) (source: Organization Athens)



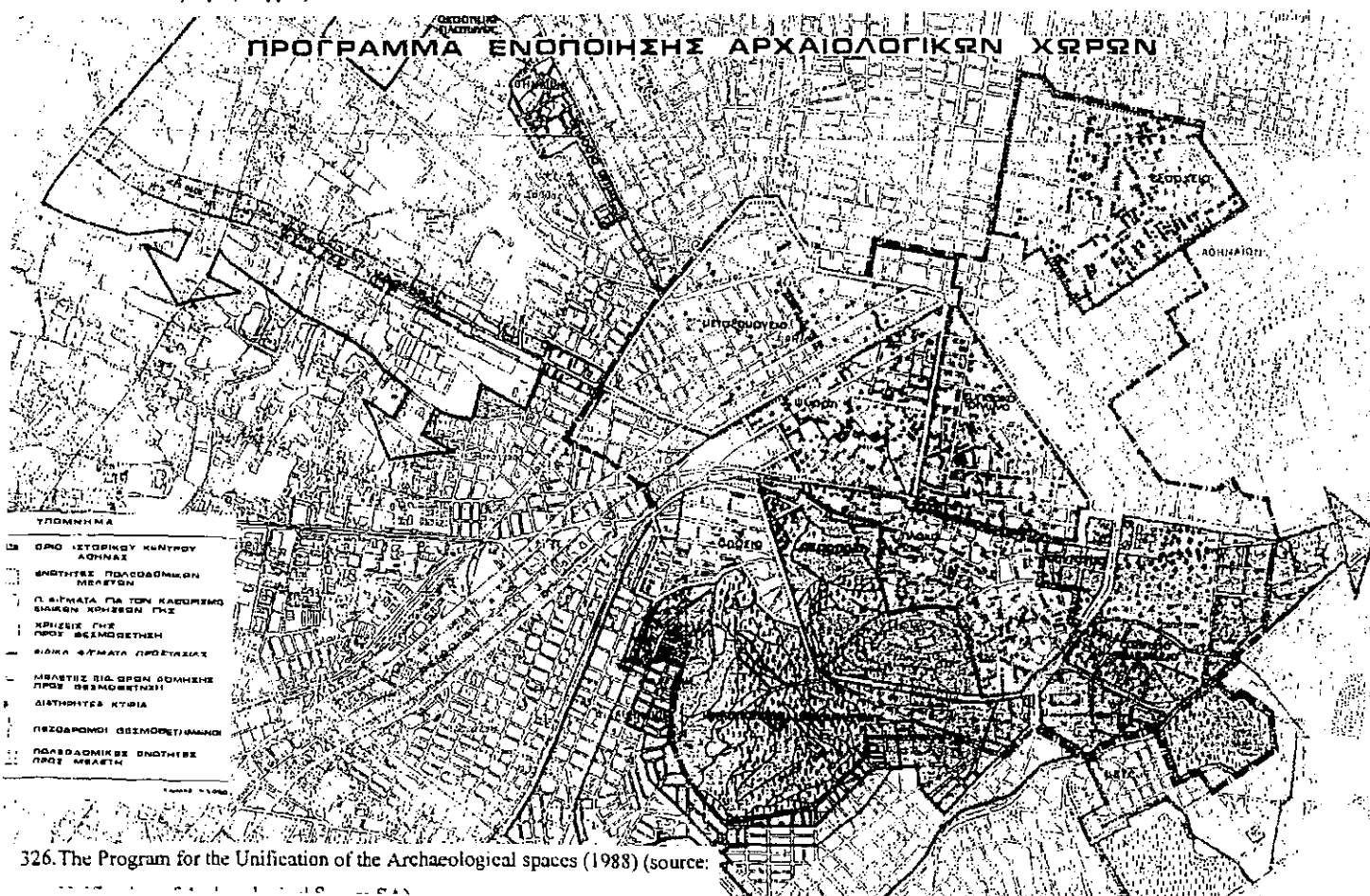
324. Proposal for the organization of Faliron coastal area (1989) (source: Organization Athens)



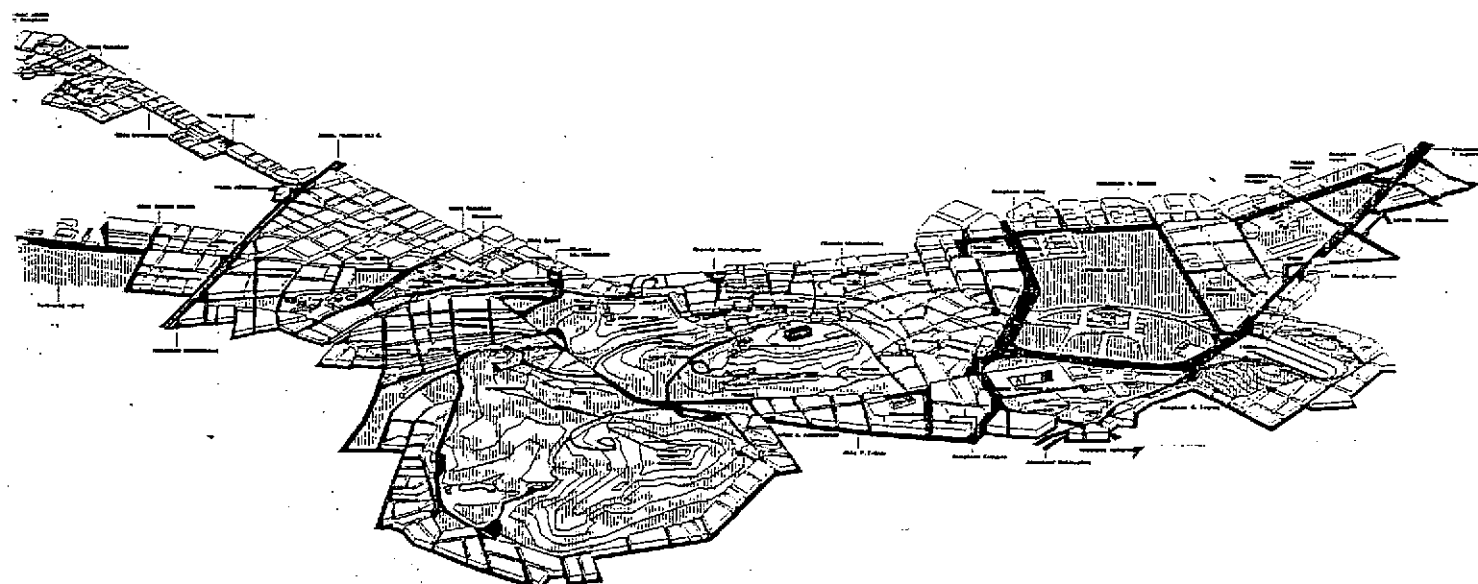
325. The Program for the Unification of the Archaeological spaces (1988) (source:

Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

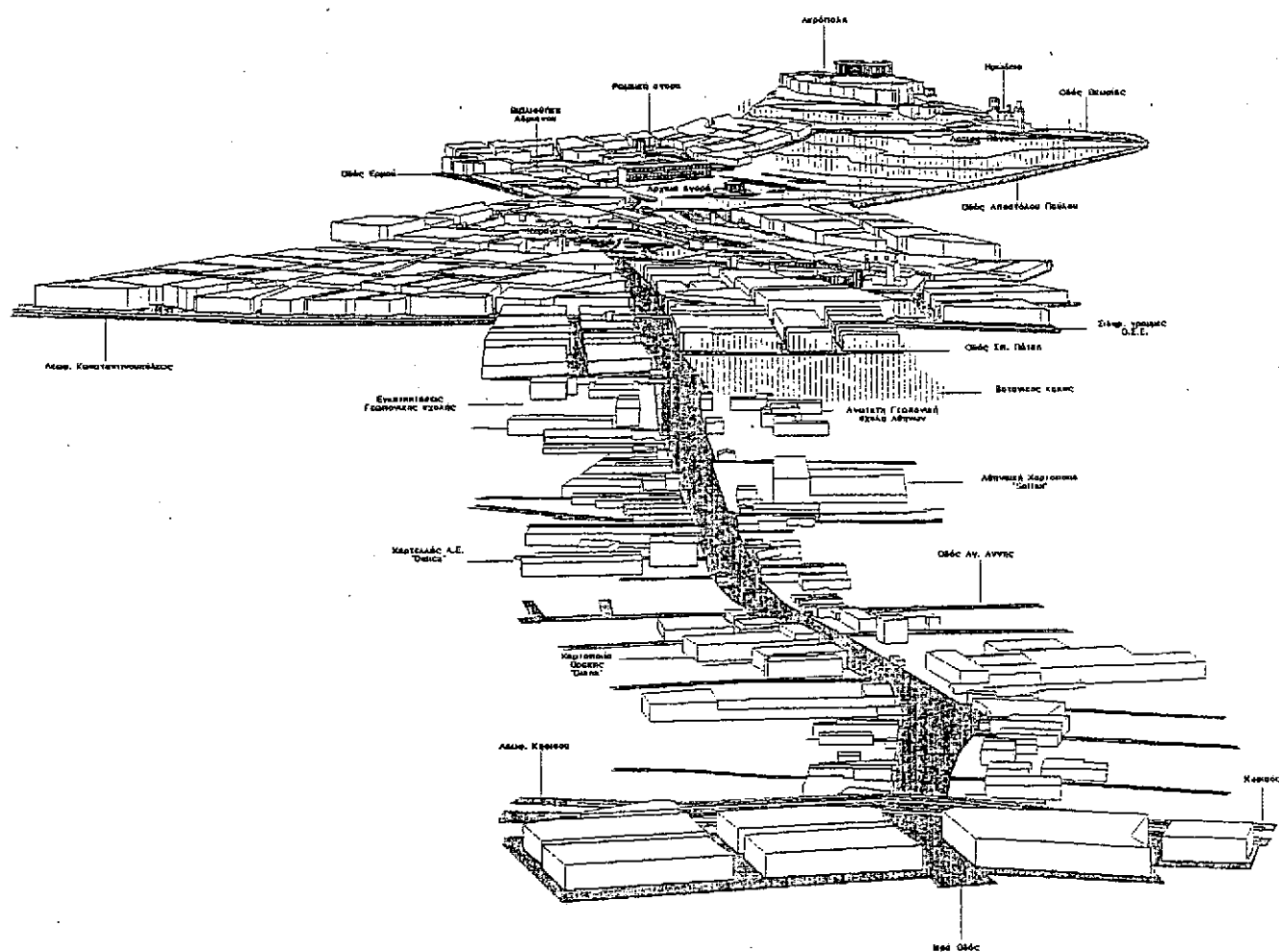
1. Keramikos – Pireaus street, Iera Odos, Gazi, Thissio
2. Ancient and Roman Agora, Andrian's Library, Plaka
3. Acropolis, Dionysion Aeropagitou, Apostle Paul, Philopappou, Macriyanni
4. Plato's Academy, Psiri, Metaxourgio
5. Commerical Triangle
6. Olympio, Zappio, Ardittos Hill



326. The Program for the Unification of the Archaeological spaces (1988) (source:



327. Schematic drawing showing the total area from the south (source: Ministry of Culture)



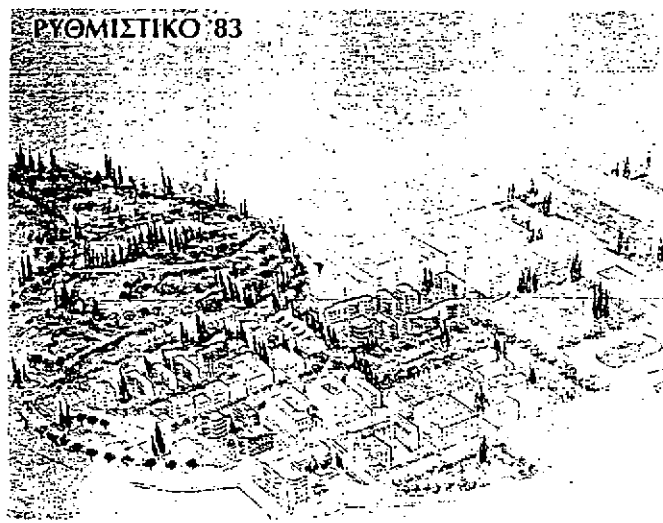
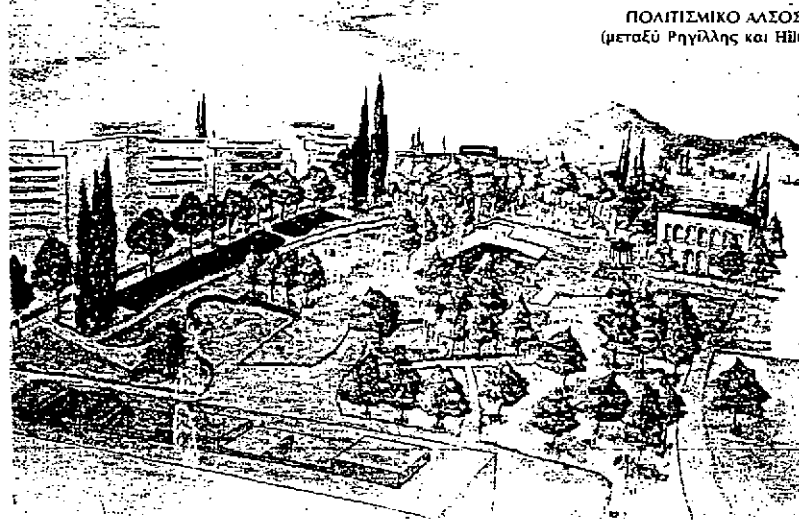
328. Schematic drawing showing the total area from the north (Iera Odos) (source: Ministry of Culture)

damages caused on natural environment, new functional problems created by city's expansions, Olympic installations in Athens's region, all on the occasion of 2004 Olympic Games.

This situation created a new perception of Open Public Spaces as elements of a broader network or system and new approaches to large scale and complex Spaces were initiated.

ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΙΚΟ ΑΛΕΟΣ
(μεταξύ Ρηγίλλης και Ηΐλ)

ΕΥΘΥΜΙΣΤΙΚΟ '83



329. Sketch of the proposal of Open Space between Vassilissis Sophias and Vassileos Constantinou (Byzantine Museum and School of Music) 1982 (source: Master Plan '83)

330. Sketch of the proposal of space formation north of Lycabettys Hill (Kountouriotika) 1982 (source: Master Plan '83)



331. View of Athens in 1990 (source: author's photograph)

3.8. ATHENS DURING THE DECADE 1990 – 2000

The course towards the Economic and Currency Union

3.8.1. General

The collapse of the “existent socialism” and the disbanding of the Soviet Union, since the beginning of the decade, caused a new context, where the geopolitical significance of Greece for the USA was considerably decreased. At the same time, a number of international changes occurred, as liberal aspects dominated Europe. The union of West and East Germany, radically modified the direction of European integration, which from an all-out effort, as the economic, political, and military union, became a liberal zone of free economic exchanges, between a big number of countries – members (Delastic, 2000).

In the same context, the significance of Turkey’s role was increasing, as it acquired an extended geopolitical capacity, due to its proximity to the energy wealth of the Caspian Sea.

In April 1990, the general elections were won by New Democracy by 46,8% with C. Mitsotakis as Prime Minister. However, according to the electoral law, the difference was rendered by a poor majority of only one seat.

In May 1990, C. Karamanlis was elected as President of Democracy. In view of Greece’s entrance in the EEC, the government was obliged to take unpopular economic measures, in order to cover public expenses and attempt State restrictions, which caused social reactions and gave the opportunity to critics to condemn the welfare measures taken. Greek society resisted with a number of protests to the new liberal policy which was attempted by the government.

In May 1991, the trial for the Koskotas’ scandal, started in the Supreme Court. A. Papandreou denied to appear before the court, and in June 1992, he was found not guilty. Meanwhile, the public’s fatigue from the continuous discussion on the scandals, was obvious.

In June 1991, the American President G. Bush visited Greece, within the scope of efforts for providing a solution to Cyprus issue, but without any substantial result.



332. Rally for the "Skopje - Macedonia" issue, in Salonica in March 1994 (source: Kathimerini)

On 10th of December 1991, in the context of the EEC Summit Session in Maastricht, Netherlands, a Treaty was signed, significantly revising the agreements on which the European Communities were based, and allowed entrance into the European Union.

This Treaty stipulated a common European currency, as well as a collective defense and social policy.

In March 1992, in the framework of liberal economic policy, the large industrial unit AGET (cement production company) was sold to a foreign buyer and in August, Public urban Transportation was privatized, by law.

These arrangements gave the impression of hiding disreputable scandal arrangements, while reactions were made with regards to the autocratic measures against social opposition and the Press.

In the diplomatic sector, problems arose concerning Scopje which wanted to be named "Macedonia". UNO in 1993 recognized them under the name FYROM. The choice of the Foreign Minister A. Samaras, aimed to politically invest in the raising current of Nationalistic populism, but his resignation from the government, led to its failure.

The handling of the Scopje issue by the government, proved to be erroneous, as it did not take advantage of the Summit Session's decisions at Lisbon (June 1992). A lot of efforts were made, which created high tensions, with a number of rallies in Salonica (1994), wasting valuable time in a period when significant changes were taking place in Europe and in the rest of the world.

The elections in October 1993, once again brought PASOK and the physically weak A. Papandreou to power, with a majority of 46,8%.

PASOK won the European elections of June 1994 with 37,6%, while on 16th June, the Parliament summoned C. Mitsotakis to the Supreme Court for the case of wire tapings, and again in September, for the sale of AGET.

Turkey announced that the expansion of Greek territorial waters by 12 miles would be considered as casus belli.

On 8th March 1995, C. Stefanopoulos was elected as President of Democracy.

Within PASOK, tensions arose with internal juxtapositions, internal opposition and the withdrawal of D. Tsovolas, who shortly afterwards founded the party DHKKI.



333. Clashes between dismissed people and the police, in 1990 (source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)



334. Protests against the hard economic policy in 1990 (source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)

In November, A. Papandreou was admitted to the Onassio Cardiological Center. In January 1996, he resigned from the premiership, and was replaced by C. Simitis.

A new crisis emerged in the Aegean with the Turkish invasion on the Greek rock island Imia, especially when a Greek helicopter was shot down. A war was avoided at the last moment.

A. Papandreou died on 17th June 1996 and C. Simitis was elected as president of PASOK. This consisted a critical fact in the party's course and the post War political system, as it placed a special emphasis on the modernization program as a renewal and rationalization schedule of Greek society (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000). In the elections of September 1996, PASOK won by 41,5%.

In March 1997, C. Karamanlis (nephew of the party's founder) was elected president of New Democracy.

Problems also appeared in Education, with prolonged strikes made by professors and the introduction in Parliament of a bill for Education. In the field of Administration, the bill named "Kapodistrias" was proposed and passed, providing for the unification of various Regions.

Internal tension existed in the New Democracy party, caused by a number of members being expelled in February 1998, while on 23rd of April, the founder of the party C. Karamanlis, died.

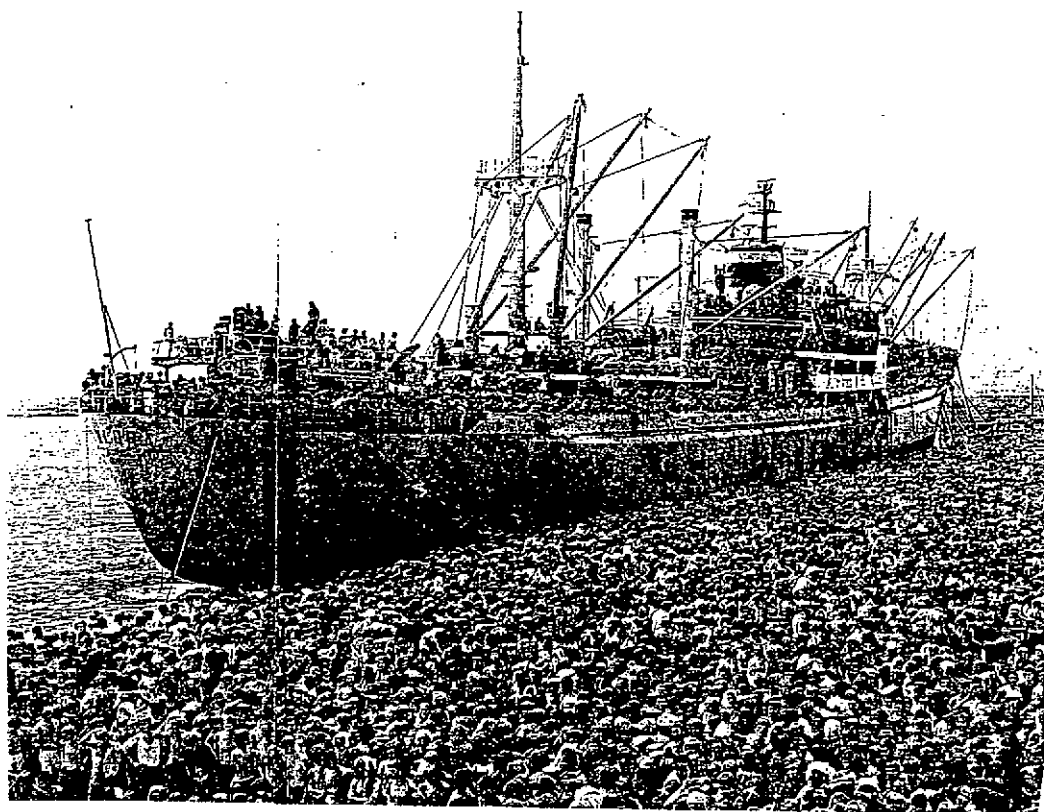
In January 1999, a tension also existed in foreign policy, as the Kurd Leader Otsalan secretly passed through the country and was helped by individuals. He was finally arrested in Kenya by Turkish agents.

On 24th of March, the armed intervention of NATO in Yugoslavia began, aiming to forcefully change their borders with the national minorities as the center of the struggles.

In the European elections on 13th June, the New Democracy won with a majority 36%.

On 7th September 1999, a strong earthquake of 5.7 points of the Richter scale hit Attica causing large material damages and many deaths. In November 1999, the American President B. Clinton visited Greece, in the framework of global solution impositions.

During the recent years, the structural assistance provided by the European Union, represented the strongest growth factor in the Greek Economy (Athens,



335. Thousands of emigrants leaving Albania in 1991 (source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)

Ekdotiki, 2000), which continued to undergo structural changes which affected employment, agriculture, industry (decrease) and the increase of various service categories.

Since 1989-90, there was a significant emigration pressure converting the country into a recipient of foreign working potential, from Balkanian and Asian countries.

3.8.2. The social structure

During the '90s, Greek society was reformed, mainly due to the economic changes, which were necessary for the economic convergence with Europe.

Especially after 1996, the prevailing logic dealt with the modification of the priorities of Greek society.

This adaptation of Greek economy to Europe's stipulations, lasting for over a decade, catalytically influenced Greek society, which was gradually exposed to competition and directed towards privatization. Moreover, the Stock Exchange, started increasingly to concern a large part of the investing public.

This decade was characterized as the "new political changeover", (Papaconstantinou, 2000) which contained the removal of the boundaries within Greek Society stemming from the Civil War, the search of a minimum national consent in the field of Foreign Policy, the tendency of the two big parties, to draw away from the paternalistic models of their organization and functions, and the transition from the "society of parties" to the "society of citizens". This decade was characterized by the admission of great numbers of economic emigrants from all the ex-communist countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, ex-Soviet Union, Yugoslavia), from Asia (Turkey, Pakistan) and Africa. This emigration inflow had a significant impact on the social structure in relation to city space and employment, as in certain districts these minorities composed the majority of the population.

Mass Media, and especially Television, gradually became a power that was liberated from State's interventions, with strong influence on public life, the formation of personal ideals, family values and coherence, and even on the political system.



336. Athens' Stock Exchange, blossoming in 1998 (source: Kathimerini)

These conditions coincided with the admission of up-to-date technologies, which caused the creation of new enterprises, or new schemes managed by a new generation of executives.

A new middle class was emerging, which probably would dominate during the following years and would create new behavioural patterns. A new middle class, less politically oriented, was increasingly occupied with the improvement of life conditions. Beyond this point, a significant part of the society would probably still exist, consisting a social outcast of the new economy (Karakoussis, 2000).

3.8.3. The spirit of the times

The characteristic of this period, was the ideological current of liberalism, which, internationally swept through, after the collapse of the “existent socialism” which was initiated with the demolition of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and the universal American control of global affairs. The demolition of the Berlin Wall, which comprised a landmark of a new era, influenced a majority of life matters and certainly issues dealing with cultural activities. In today’s period of globalization and devaluation of ethnic characteristics, the future was placed in a society of “information and image”.

PASOK’s come back to power, created a conservative “updating” of the political landscape : The “Social contract” implied the conservation of economic liberalization with austerity measures, but also including “social sensitivity” provisions. In Foreign Policy, in the context of the new international situation, Greece was aligned to a disciplined course of the European Economic and Currency Union in the framework of the Treaty of Maastricht, and towards the incorporation of the country in the globalized market economy. The “Stock Exchange Party” henceforth composed a strong reality in Greece (Papaconstantinou, 2000).

The central updated adaptations made by the two main parties was reflected in the representative change of the political powers which they expressed.

The traditional separation between “Left” and “Right” was now replaced by the conflict between “Europe – Updaters” and “National – Popular” (Papaconstantinou, 2000).



337. High School pupils, protesting against the Educational Reformation, in January 1991 (source: Historic Album, Kathimerini)

The politico – social developments have influenced the spirit of the times in all fields :

On the Political Scene political morals were stabilized. However, at the same time, State populism rose and stable political values were corroded and replaced by ideologies of effortless wealth accumulation and consumer prosperity.

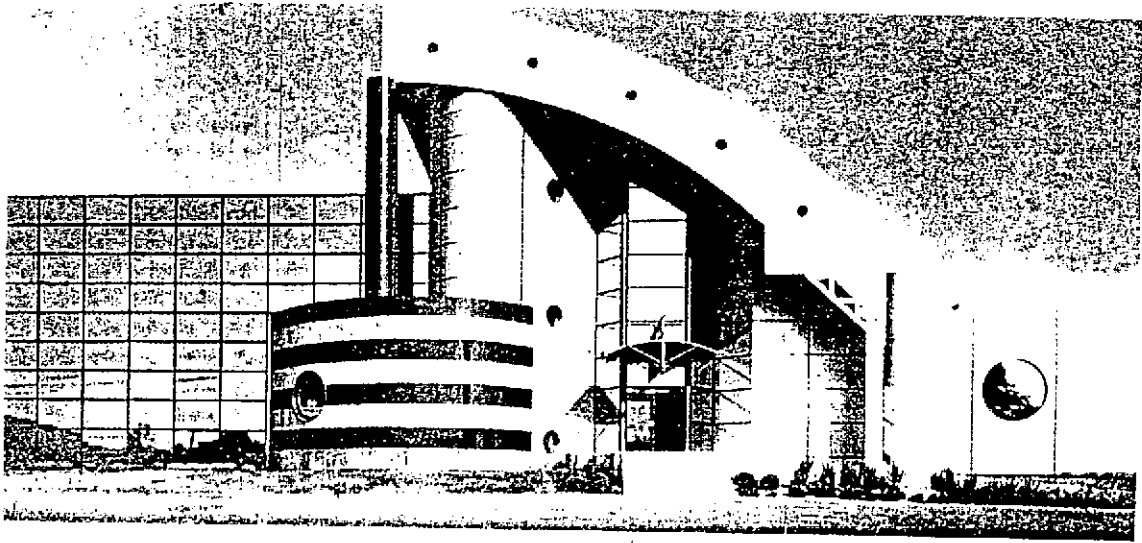
The explosion of information and the improvement of the average educational level, led to an expressive pluralism, after the reduction of determinative factors, such as ideology and the increased disputes.

In this way, the decrease of social activity and the restriction on the social role of the artist, author and poet, isolated art to a closed and socially marginal universe of fellow-artists and a specific public.

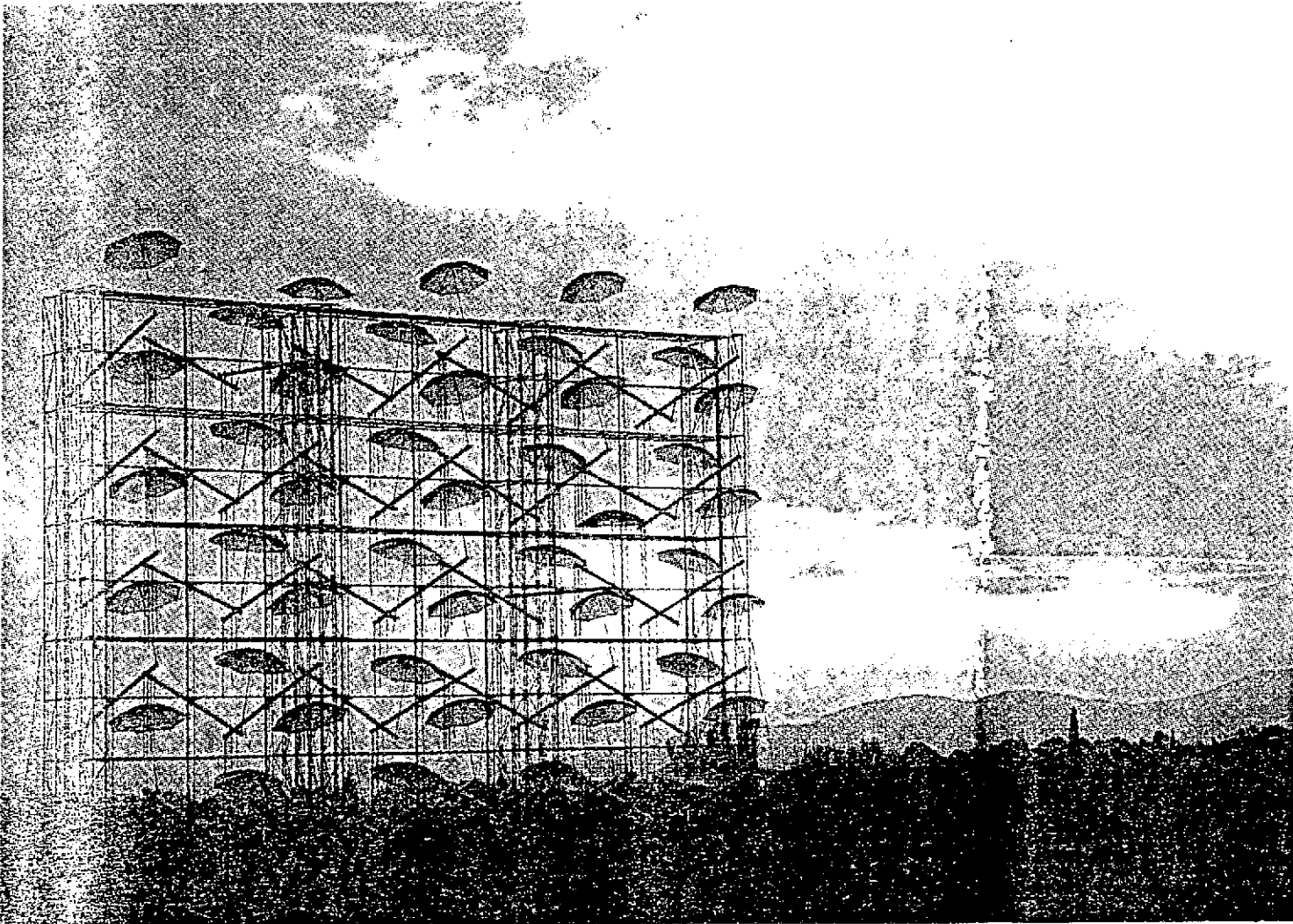
Thus, Literature became detached, since its power ceased to function as a medium of collective self knowledge (Garantoudis, 2000).

Some of the more important Literary works were:

- 1990. S. Tsiolis : Love under the palm tree. A. Empirikos : The Big Eastern,
A. Mitsos : Story of coincidental realism.
- 1991. P. Kondilis : Power and Decision, T. Theodoropoulos : The unthinkable
Landscape, E. Aranissis : Details of the end of World.
- 1992. Z. Zатели : With the twilight they come back, Ap. Doxiadis : Uncle Peter and
the Goldbach's hypothesis, Sp. Tsaknias : Zero Visibility, D. Nollas:
The tomb near the sea.
- 1993. R. Galanaki : I' ll sign as Louis, G. Giatromanolakis : A Useless short story,
M. Koumantareas : The harp's gang, Ch. Homenidis : The wise child.
- 1994. Z. Lorentzatos : Studies, P. Matessis : The old Days, N. Fais : Autobiography
of a book.
- 1995. El. Papadimitropoulos : Rosamunde, M. Meskos : Regards, A. Assonitis :
The conscience of eternity.
- 1996. K. Mitsotaki : Flora Mirabilis, N. Valaoritis : Fairy stories, N. Bakolas :
The unfinished blood writing.
- 1997. J. Karistiani : Little England, F. Tamvakaki : The castaway of Passifai,
J. Kontos : The athlete of nothing.
- 1998. A. Fakinos : The Foreman's dream, E. Hourmouziadou : The secretary,
V. Kassos: Impenetrable light.



338. New trends in Architecture, 1991 (source: Greece, 20th century Architecture)



339. "Untitled" sculpture (G. Zogopoulos, 1993, (source: Kathimerini)

1999. M. Douka : Heavenly Mechanics, T. Theodoropoulos : The power of the dark God, D. Axioti: The minimum of my life.

In the area of Fine Arts, many institutions were founded during this decade, such as the Municipal Galleries of Volos, Iraklion, Larissa, Livadia, Rethymno, as well as, private museums, such as Katsigras' Museum, the Gallinas' Gallery in Pilio, the Center of Engravings V. Katraki, etc.

At the National Gallery very important exhibitions were held, as for example, "Transformations of the Modern", "From Theotocopoulos to Sezan", "Russian Avant-garde" etc.

Greece participated in a number of international exhibitions, while significant exhibitions by distinguished artists were also held in Greece (J. Kounelis in the cargo boat "Ionio", G. Zogolopoulos in the Biennale at Venice) (Pavlopoulos, 2000). This decade has been characterized by the use of High Technology, Laser and Video, in the Conjectural creation, of Constructions, Environments, Installations etc. (K. Katzourakis, Z. Xagoraris, G. Harvalias and others).

Conceptual Art was represented by E. Apergis, A. Skourtis, N. Alexiou, and others, while the installations of G. Lappas, K. Varotsos, F. Hatzioannidis placed an emphasis on symbolism (Athens' Ekdotiki, 2000).

In the field of Music, the appearance of the "Free" Radio, and Television as well as the diffusion of CD records was decisive, and determined the free choice of performances, as well as the change in the production and commercialization of music.

All these resulted in a unification of various trends, created in the previous decade, and shaped a common sphere, without having essential differences. In this way, "rock" music was unified with the "classic" folksongs, the "whine" expressing song and also the "new folk", which were characterized with the "turn to the tradition". At the same time, other currents with Balkan influences, were developing such as "Ethnic" music and new trends of "Pop" music.

However, the Greek song, despite all the Western and Eastern influences seemed to conserve its nationality (Angelicopoulos, 2000).

A significant event in the Greek Musical scene, was the operation of the Music Palace, which offered the opportunity to the public to experience quality music, and also to Greek composers to create new compositions.



340. Scenes from Greek Movies of the '90s (source: Cinema magazine)

In Theater, this period was characterized by “inflation”, expressing a sensation of abundance, density, and also exaggeration and excess (Payatakis, 2000).

These facts could be reasoned within the framework of a free market, of supply and demand.

This decade has been an “integrated” theatrical period: many theatrical companies, and plays were presented to a matured public, with an unprecedented attendance to theatrical performances, as a reaction to the thoughtless and hypnotic TV watching.

In Cinema, this decade, started by the public’s abhorrence to Greek Cinema, but ended with box-office successes. Greek Cinema changed from its fatalist and poetic image and penetrated to Greek reality, with accurate descriptions and criticisms.

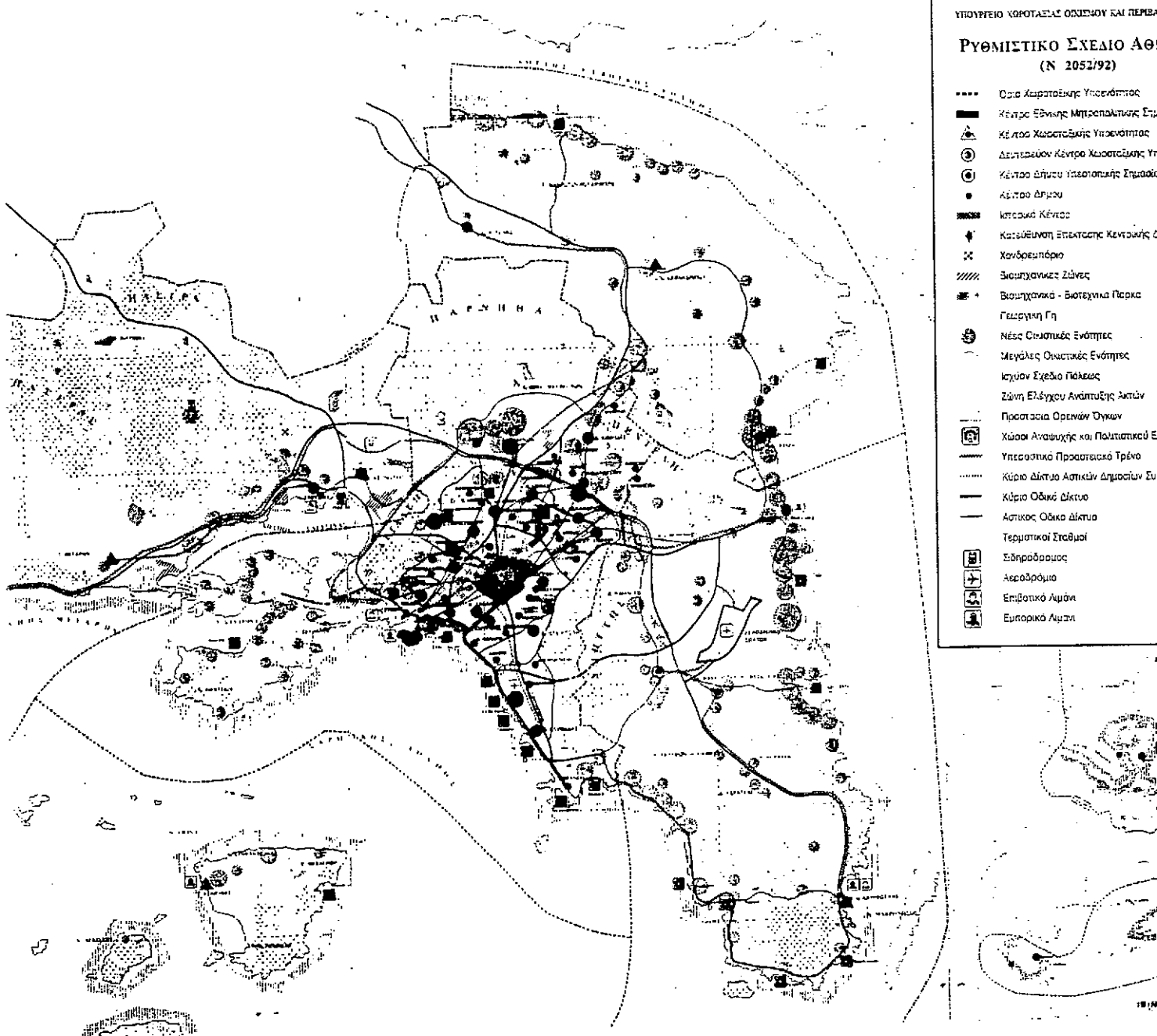
There was an impressive variety of themes, from youth’s experiences to the new social order and the satire of the Balkan reality situation.

New directors appeared (such as P. Housoglou : L. Dimacopoulos, *The Gentleman in grey*, S. Goritsas : *Despina*, *From the Snow*, *Valkanisater*, A. Kokkinos : *End of an era*, D. Athanitis : *Adieu Berlin*, *Dream of a summer night*, P. Kaknavatos : *Edge*, *Earth and Water* and others), while other well-established directors still maintained a strong presence (G. Tsemperopoulos: *So long*, N. Nikolaidis : *Singapore’s link*, St. Tsiolis : *Let the women wait*, N. Panayotopoulos : *I dream of my friends*, N. Perakis : *Protector of family*, and others). Among them were also two female directors, such as Fr. Liappa : *The years of heat wave* and T. Marketaki : *Crystal Nights*.

M. Kakoyannis directed the comedy : *Up, down, and to the side*, N. Koundouros directed historical plays such as *Lord Byron and the Photographers*, P. Voulgaris “designed” the meetings of lonely people in : *The Quiet days of August* and *Everything is a Road*.

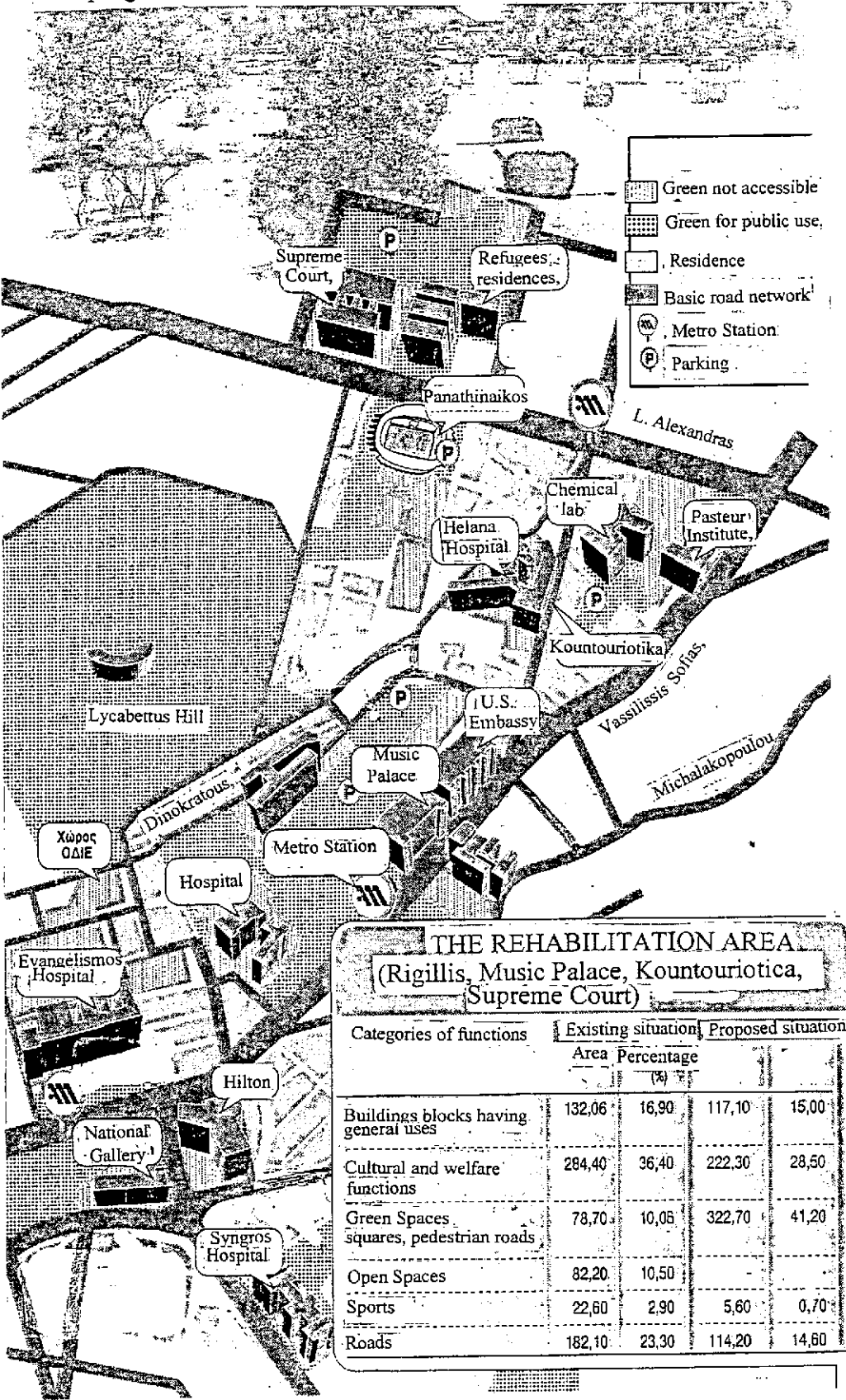
Finally, Th. Angelopoulos created three new movies: *The Pending step of the Stork*, *The look of Odysseus* (Cannes Prize 1995) and *Eternity and one day* (Golden Palm of Cannes 1998) (Katsounaki, 2000).

In the field of Architecture, the Post-Modern and the Late-Modern movements reflected the insecurity of the present-day civilization of the Post-industrial, consuming society, whose values and manners were shaped by publicity. The eclectic



341. The Master Plan of Athens as published by the Law 2052/92 (source: Organization Athens)

The program for the Unification of Green Spaces in Athens' Center



343. Sketch of the programme for the Unification of Green Spaces in Athens' Center
(source: Publication in the Press)

logic, superficial goals, and fake monumentality, often led to divorce of form and content.

The Post-Modern and Late-Modern movement, had less aggressive eccentric or superficial expressions in Greece, than in the international scene, due to the shortage of funds and to conscious choices, which reflected the characteristics of the New Greek Architecture : moderation and caution (Fessas – Emmanouil, 1993). The tendency to use high technology in architecture, associated with Post Modern or Late-Modern expressions, strongly characterized this period (A. Tombazis, N. Valsamakis).

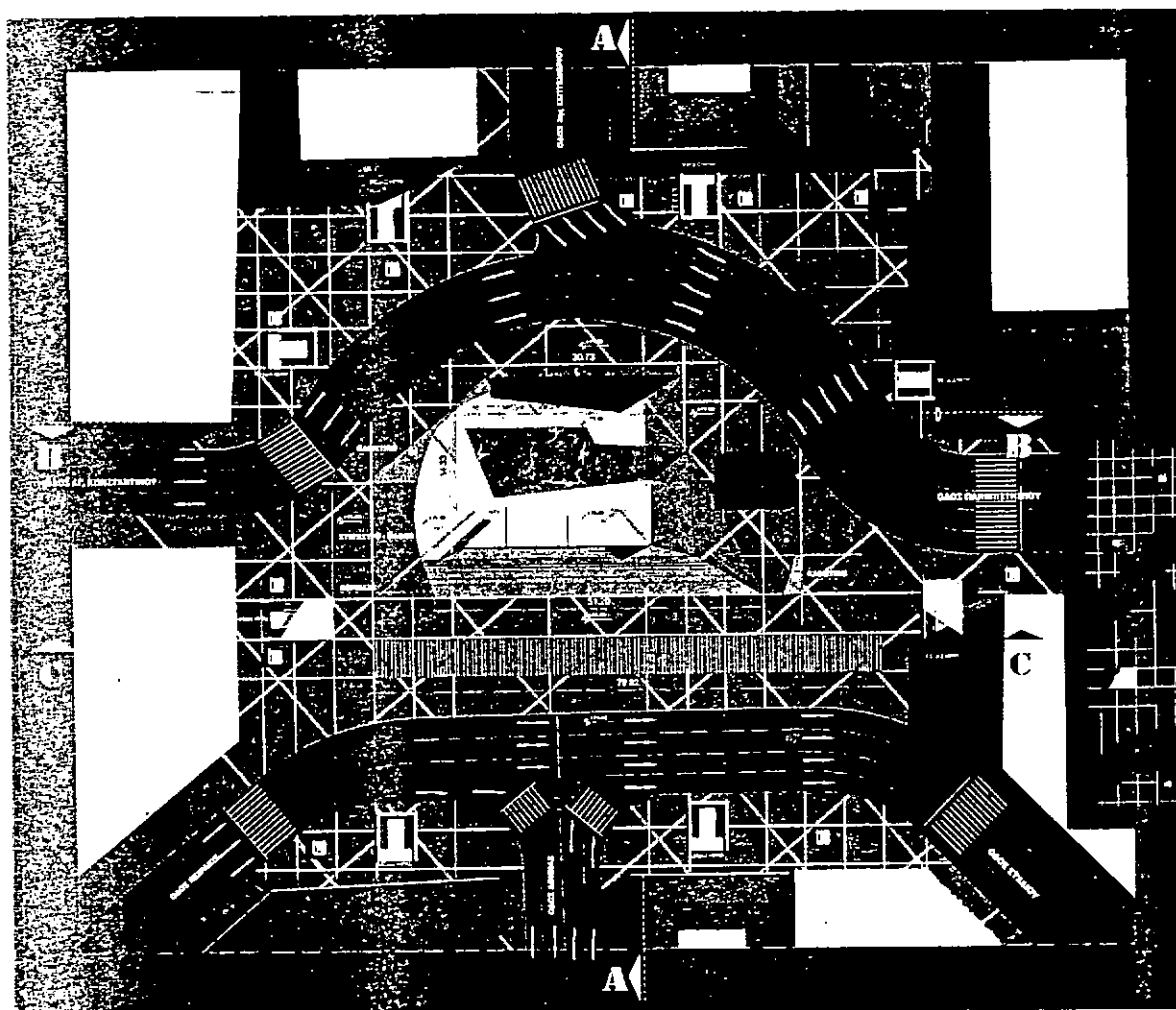
In December 1999, following an interval of eleven years since the last one, an Architectural Congress was organized by the PanHellenic Union of Architects, with subject : “The Architecture and the Greek Town in the 21st century”, in an attempt to investigate the relationships between Architecture and the City, the Projection and Protection of Architectural identity of Greek Towns, in the fields of Urban Design, Open Public Spaces, Public Buildings, Urban Residence, Architectural Heritage, Traffic Areas.

The interventions referred to items such as the recent Greek experience, the European trends, the Legislative Framework, etc.

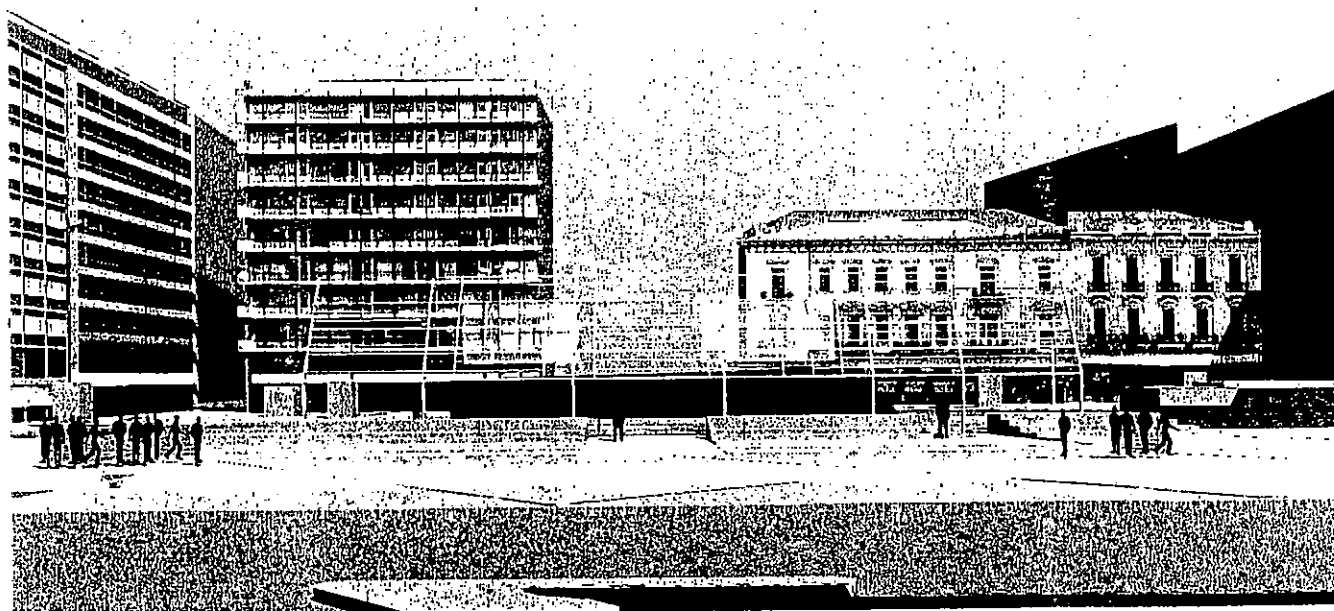
3.8.4. The city

The evolution of the city’s issues in relation to ecology, led the legislative adjustment of the Law 2508/97 on the “Sustainable development of city housing” which was expected to impact on urban matters towards a contemporary questioning. However, no actual applications have been carried out in order to analyze its consequences.

With the governmental alteration of 1990, the government, under K. Mitsotakis, proceeded to the solution of the “Organization of Urban Transport” (EAS), a subsidized organization, and the privatization of the entire Transportation system. With the next governmental change, the organization returned to Public Sector, but with a large deficit (Sariyannis, 2000).



344. The proposal for the formation of Omonia Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)



345. The proposal for the formation of Omonia Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

As far as Transportation means were concerned, the most significant was the construction of underground "Athens Metro".

In July 1991, the company "Attico Metro S.A." was founded with broad responsibilities for the construction of the underground train works, which after many technical difficulties and delays, started operating in 2000, offering a great facilitation and ease to public transportation.

During this period, two lines of the Athens Metro were constructed and functioned in coordination with the old electric train (Pireaus – Omonia – Kifissia), while other lines were also planned.

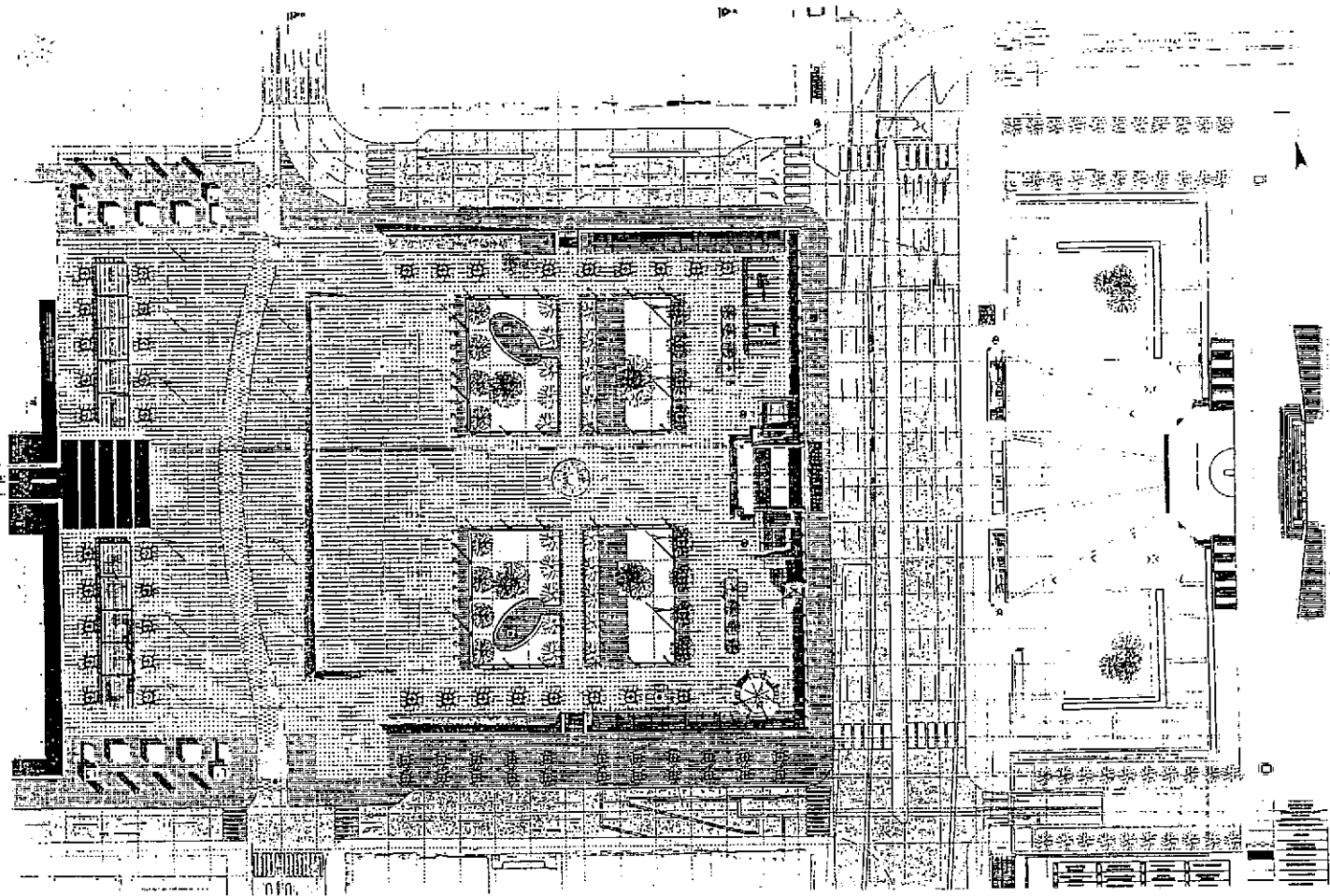
In 1994, a Congress was organized by the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE) under the title, "A vision for Athens", and in 1996, another congress was also organized by the "Organization of Athens", titled "Athens – Attica – Strategic Planning for a sustainable development". In both Congresses elaborate questionings were developed on the contemporary problems of the city of Athens.

With de-industrialization, a turn of investments was noticed towards high standard housing, mainly consisting of luxurious constructions and constructions in general, also containing buildings of large Companies, Congresses' Centers and large Commercial Centers.

The basic framework of the future development and character of Athens, which could be considered as desirable, having in mind the international evolutions, is the field of Services of Capital Administration and Management, in relation to the broader Mediterranean and the Balkans' Region (Sariyannis, 2000).

As far as the population in Athens is concerned, at the end of 20th century, it is estimated about 4.500.000 inhabitants.

In 1992, the Law 1515/85 (called Tritsis' Plan) was modified by the Law 2052/92, abolishing the numerous small and medium regional centers, enacting five main "Regional centers" in Athens, as for instance, the area of the ex-Military barracks in Haidari, the Administrative and Commercial Center in Menidi, the area of Helliniko Airport, the transfer of Ministries to areas near the traffic junction of Kifissias – Stavrou and the Eleonas area. In the last area, after the change of land uses, only 25% of the total area was scheduled to be rendered green areas. On the occasion of the 2004 Olympic Games an attempt was made for "the Plan's Revision, according to New Needs", and their servicing in areas of Parnitha and Hymettus mountains and also in the coastal areas of Saronicos, Schinias of Marathon, etc.



346. The proposal for the formation of Syntagma Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)



347. The proposal for the formation of Syntagma Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

Once more in the History of Athens, new expansions of the City Plan, were scheduled, in order to enable the construction of the “villages” for athletes and reporters of the Olympic Games, which will be later converted to residential units.

Besides, provisions were made for the intense housing development of “good” areas, and the development of Hotel Units and Touristic installations. Certain areas of the old city, despite the fact that they maintained quality characteristics such as low building heights, a number of neoclassical houses and their proximity to archaeological sites, still remained under-developed and housed low income working people or economic emigrants. These areas are still under a procedure of “reformation” and “upgrading”, in order to become part of a high cost touristic space and recreational area, a fact that would cause the extinction of today’s inhabitants and a modification of its social structure (Sariyannis, 2000).

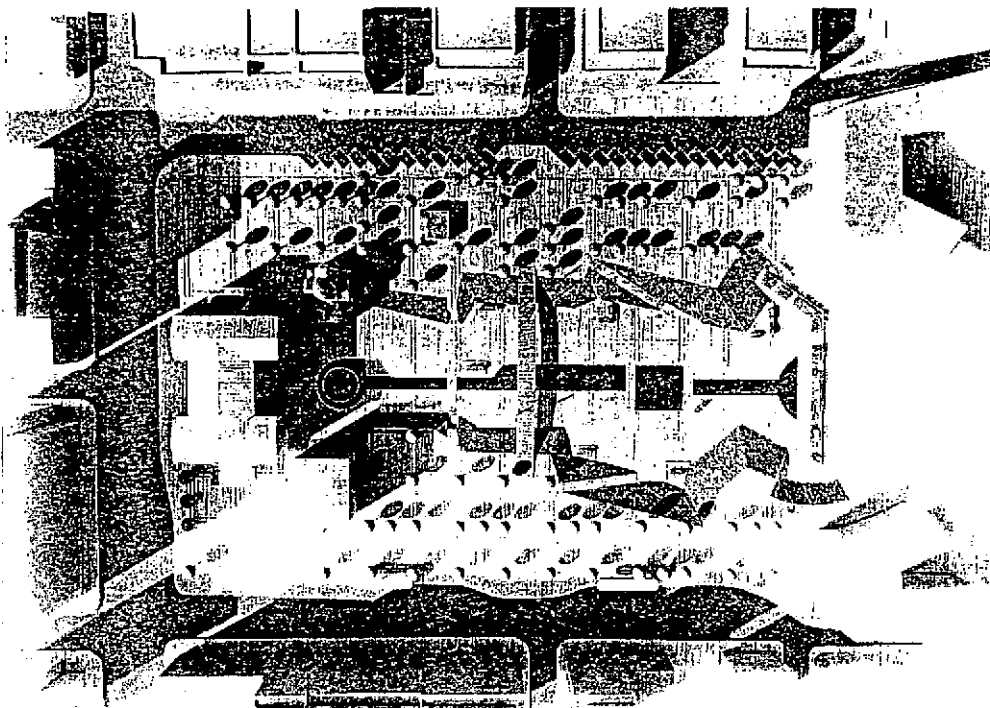
The operation of the new Spata Airport, will surely upset the balances of settlements and natural environments, with vast changes of land uses, scale of interventions, transportation networks and other infrastructures.

The area of Messogia, from an agrarian area, with small industrial units of moderate functions, will be completely modified with an outrageous and continuous development of housing, offices, industries, hotels etc, where the agrarian environment will be a memory of the past.

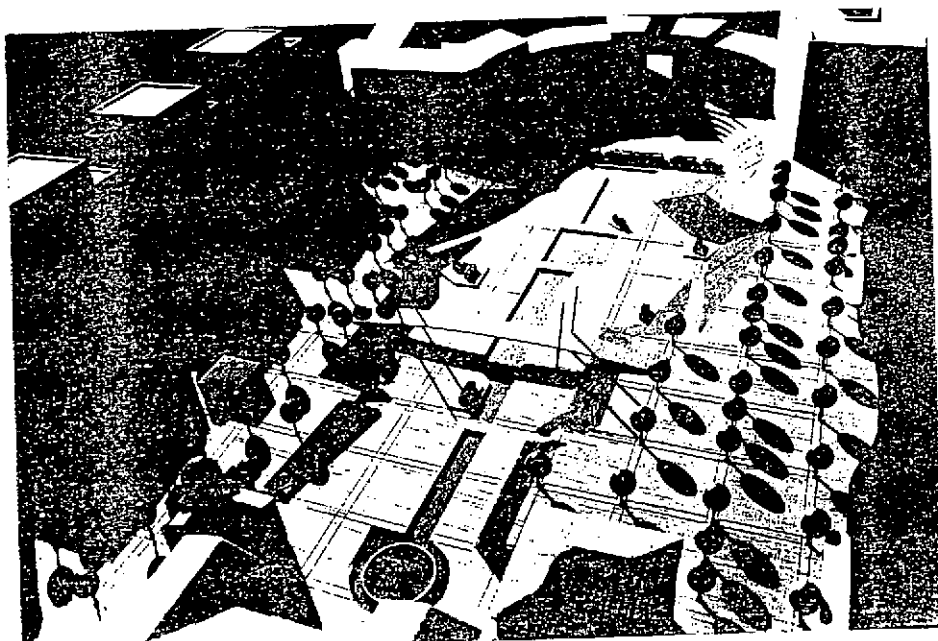
In 1996, the organization of the 2004 Olympic Games, created a new context for the development of the Open Public Spaces of Athens. This was and still is carried out a level of coordinated efforts for sufficient infrastructures and mainly towards the upgrading and projection of the city’s character and physiognomy, not only for this specific event, but also for the prospective improvement of the natural and built environment of Athens.

For the servicing of the continuously increasing circulation needs of 4.2. million inhabitants, many public works were scheduled, such as the construction of the peripheral artery Stavrou – Elefsinas, which will connect Elefsis to the Western part of the city and the new Airport in the Spata area, the construction of the peripheral avenue on Hymettus mountain, the construction of Olympic Ring, consisting of 4 branches connecting various Athletic Installations with the Olympic Village, etc.

Other large works that are scheduled, are related to major roads, such as the Poseidon coastal avenue, connecting Faliro with Vouliagmeni, also including relevant



348. The proposal for the formation of Koumoundourou Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces)



349. The proposal for the formation of Koumoundourou Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces)

reformations of the coastal zone, the avenue Varis – Koropi, the formation of the Marathon route etc.

The whole scheme will be completed with Bus lines and a Regional Railway.

An international evolution of city's spaces is related with the increasing importance of the role of Mass Media and especially TV and Internet, though which, the citizen is gradually being disconnected from the material city space and the specific Place and starts to function as "tele-citizen" as all democratic procedures, such as public debates etc are being though television networks and tele-conferences.

This fact is being applied also in the case of Athens city with severe consequences for the city spaces, as traditional city centers are now change functions and users.

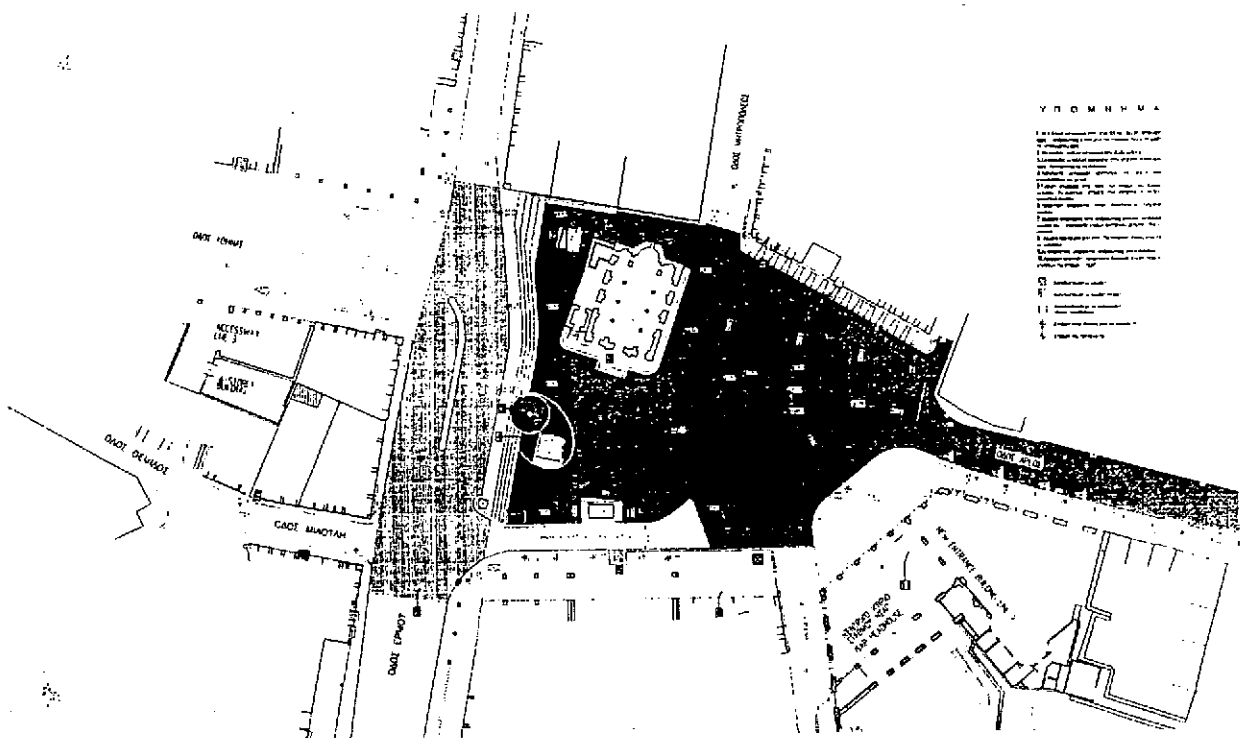
3.8.5. The Public Spaces

During this decade, the new socio-economic phenomenon, created by the development of technology caused modifications to the social behaviour of Athenians, related to the Public Space.

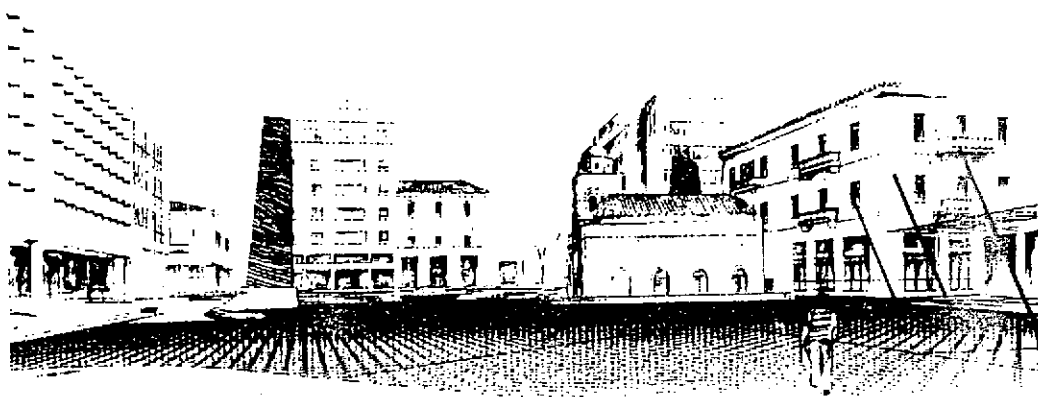
The physical presence and movement are not necessary any more and are replaced by telephone, video, mobile telephone, e-mail and Internet, which undermine the role of Open Public Spaces which are now left unattended and are abandoned by the Authorities, as they have lost a part of their symbolic value as expressing the dominating socio-economic structure.

Due to this fact, there are the economically weak classes which appropriate the Public Space. Especially in areas around Omonia Square, Koumoundourou square, Vathis square etc groups of economic emigrants from Eastern Countries seeking for a better future are almost the majority of users of these spaces, which have been downgraded.

The Authorities' interest is now mostly towards the development of "new" Eastern Attica's areas and the projects related to 2004 Olympic Games and the new Airport.



350. The proposal for the formation of Monastiraki Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces)



351. The proposal for the formation of Monastiraki Square (1st prize of the Architectural Competition, 1998) (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces)

A future significant Public work for the city will be the Unification of the Archaeological Spaces, aiming to display the historic past to which Athens owes many things, even for its today's situation, in a spatial unity.

Other large Open Spaces of Athens, which will be released by the transition of today's uses, are the Park in Goudi, the area of Panathinaikos Stadium, the Rizari Park, the installations of DEH (National Electricity Board) in Ambelokipi, etc.

Already proposals have been made for the above areas, by interested companies for instance for Goudi Park, the "Organization of Athens 2004" proposed office buildings, the Greek Church is interested for Panathinaikos Stadium, in order to build a new Cathedral, and for Rizari Park the Goulandris' Foundation is also expressed an interest in order to build a Museum of Modern Art in its vicinity.

Besides, the change in today's land uses, due to the needs for the organization of the 2004 Olympic Games, will create some "empty spaces" which should be converted to green areas and Open Public Spaces. However, they have already been scheduled for other intense uses.

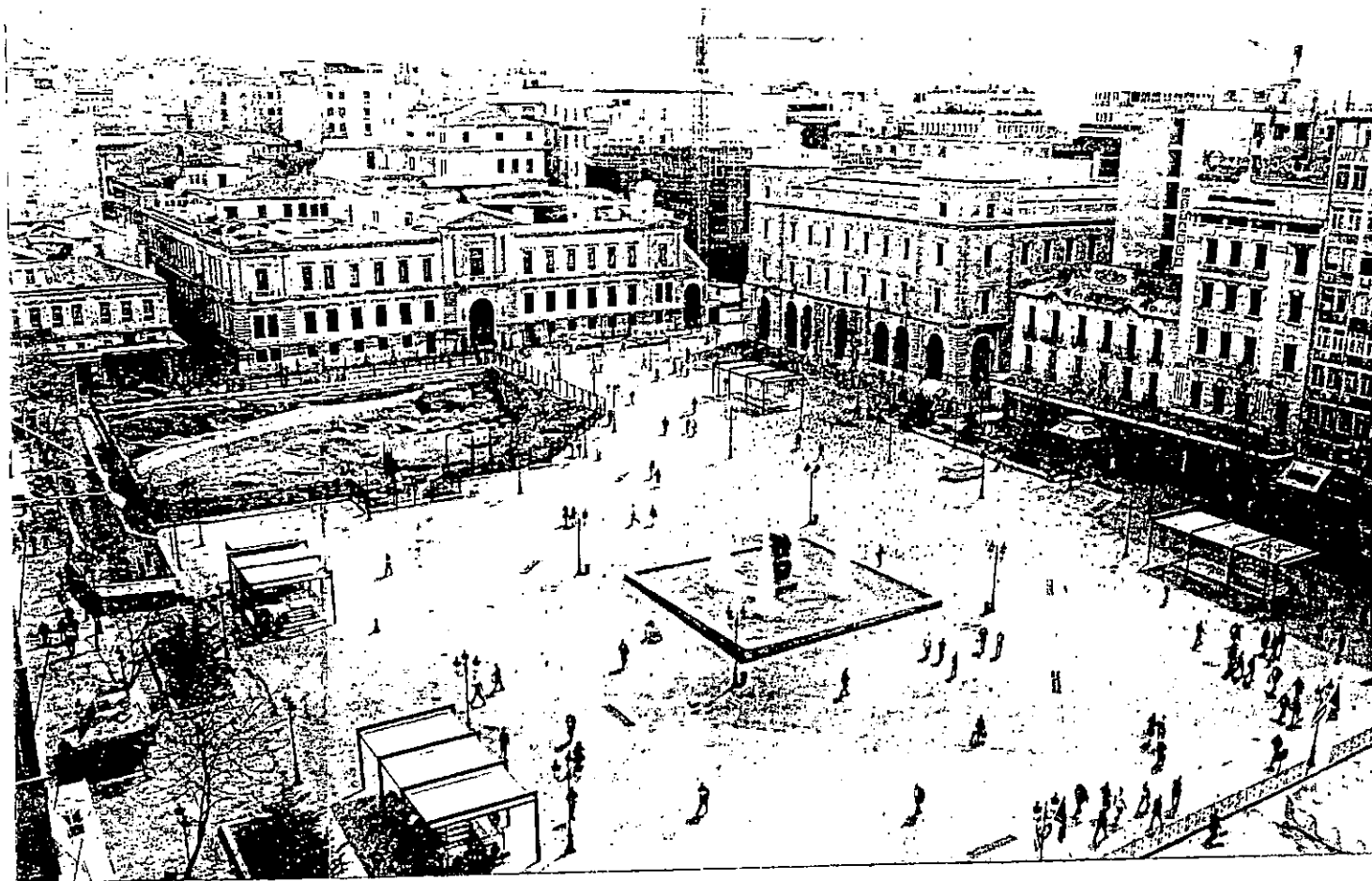
For example, the Racecourse area in Faliro, is considered to be created into a private Commercial Center, the Water Biospace of Schinias in Marathon for large installations of the Rowdrome, the land filled coast of New Faliro for various open and covered sports fields, in view of the Olympiad, for relevant athletic and commercial uses. These tendencies are not properly directed i.e. the conversion for open spaces for the benefit of pedestrians and the city's greenery.

In 1993, the Music Palace started to operate and influence with its events, the cultural life of Athens and the Public Spaces near it.

In 1994, in the Town Hall Square, (Kotzia Square) works started, for the construction of an underground Car Park for around 800 cars.

The final formation of the square included only a small part of the archaeological site, uncovered by the excavation, despite the archaeological findings being of significant and augmented value. (Part of classical city walls).

The whole result was of a quite simple formation with a marble covering of the ground, without any plants or tree plantation. There are four staircases-exists from the underground Parking, covered with pergolas and the elements which were used repeatedly by the Municipality during the last six years: a fountain in the center, railings all around and "traditional" lamp posts.



352. Kotzia (Municipality's) Square, as was reformed in 1999: a central fountain, pergolas, railings, lighting posts and part of the archaeological excavation
(source: author's photograph)



353. Kotzia (Municipality's) Square, as was reformed in 1999: a central fountain, pergolas, railings, lighting posts and part of the archaeological excavation
(source: author's photograph)

The archaeological site has not been incorporated in an imaginative way in the square, and the final impression is of a "poor" formation.

It is not even functional, as it lacks any elements which would provide a shadow to users.

Besides in 1995, during the excavations for the privately owned Museum of Modern Art, the ruins of the Aristotles' Lyceum (335 BC) surfaced. Despite the fact that these were the remains of a small part of the ancient School of Philosophy, the space acquired a great significance due to the area's historic and symbolic potential.

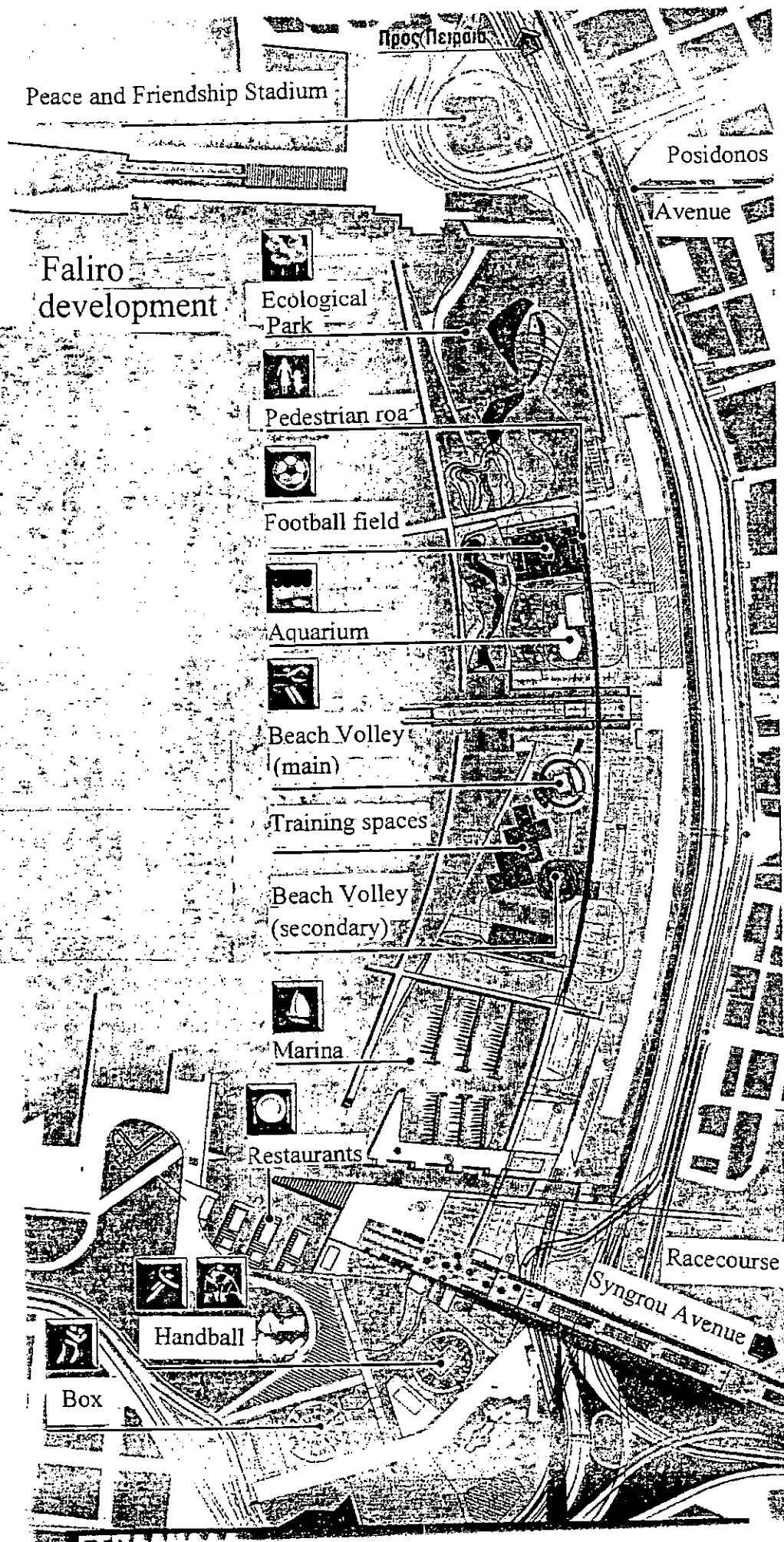
In 1999 the pedestrianization of Ermou Street (actually half of the length of it) was completed and offered to public use. Its design and reconstruction was much more integrated on functional and aesthetic level, than other similar formations, because of its position in the historic center of the city and the relevant care invested in this attempt. Ermou street was designed in a simple and gentle way, with nice marble and stone combinations of materials, forming quiet geometrical patterns.

Attention was paid in details, such as the lighting of the street with posts and ground fixtures, and to adaptation of the design to spaces characteristics as road intersections, entrances, monuments etc., providing a bold architectural result.

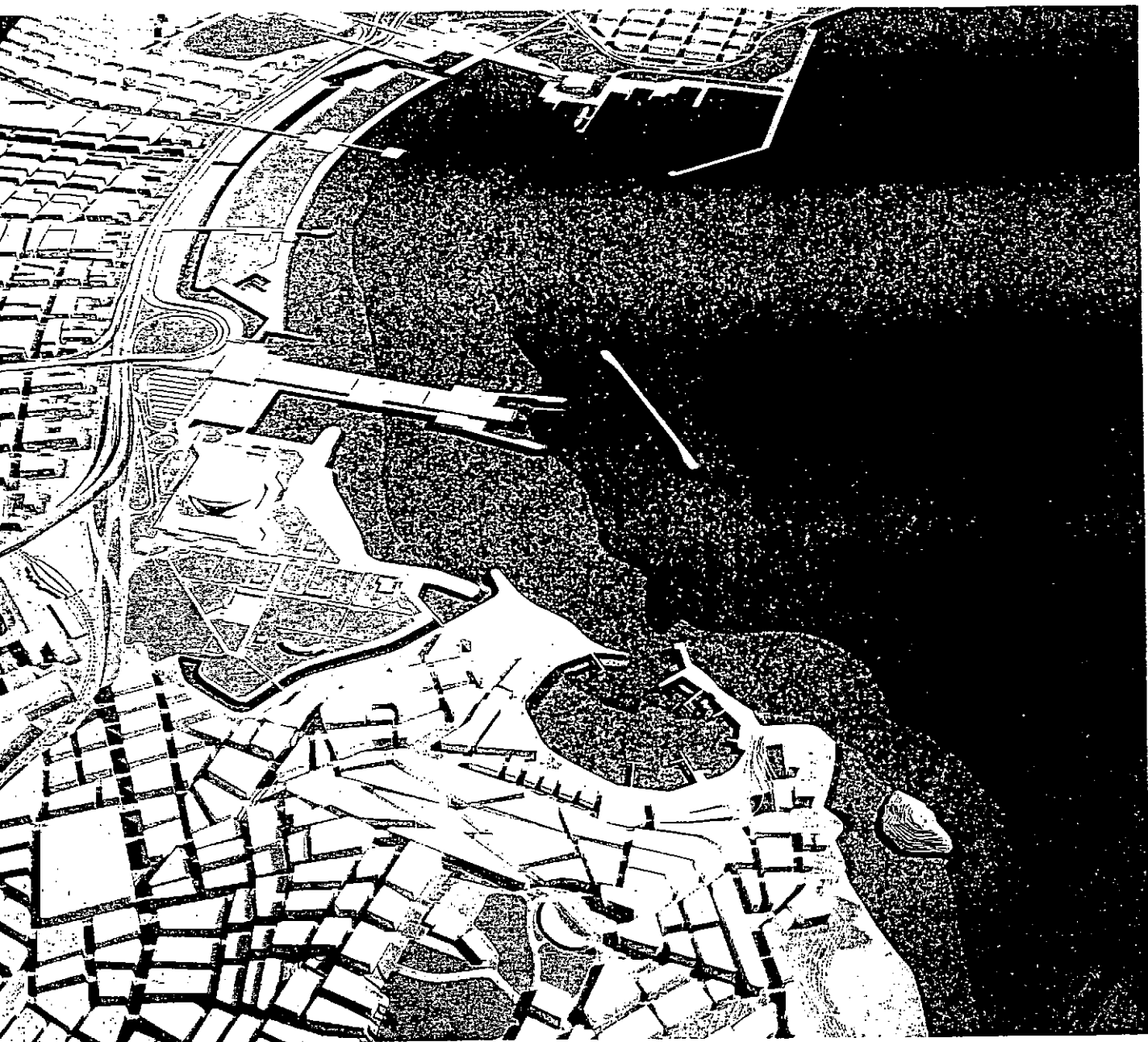
In the 1990s, there was a turn in the State's consideration of Open Public Spaces. The need for integrated studies for dealing with the formation of large areas, and the complexity of interrelated problems, the critical situations of many issues and the major works in view of the 2004 Olympic Games, led at the beginning of the '90s to the assignment of studies and the programming of significant future works, not only for the city of Athens, but also the entire of Attica area.

The most significant of these, are :

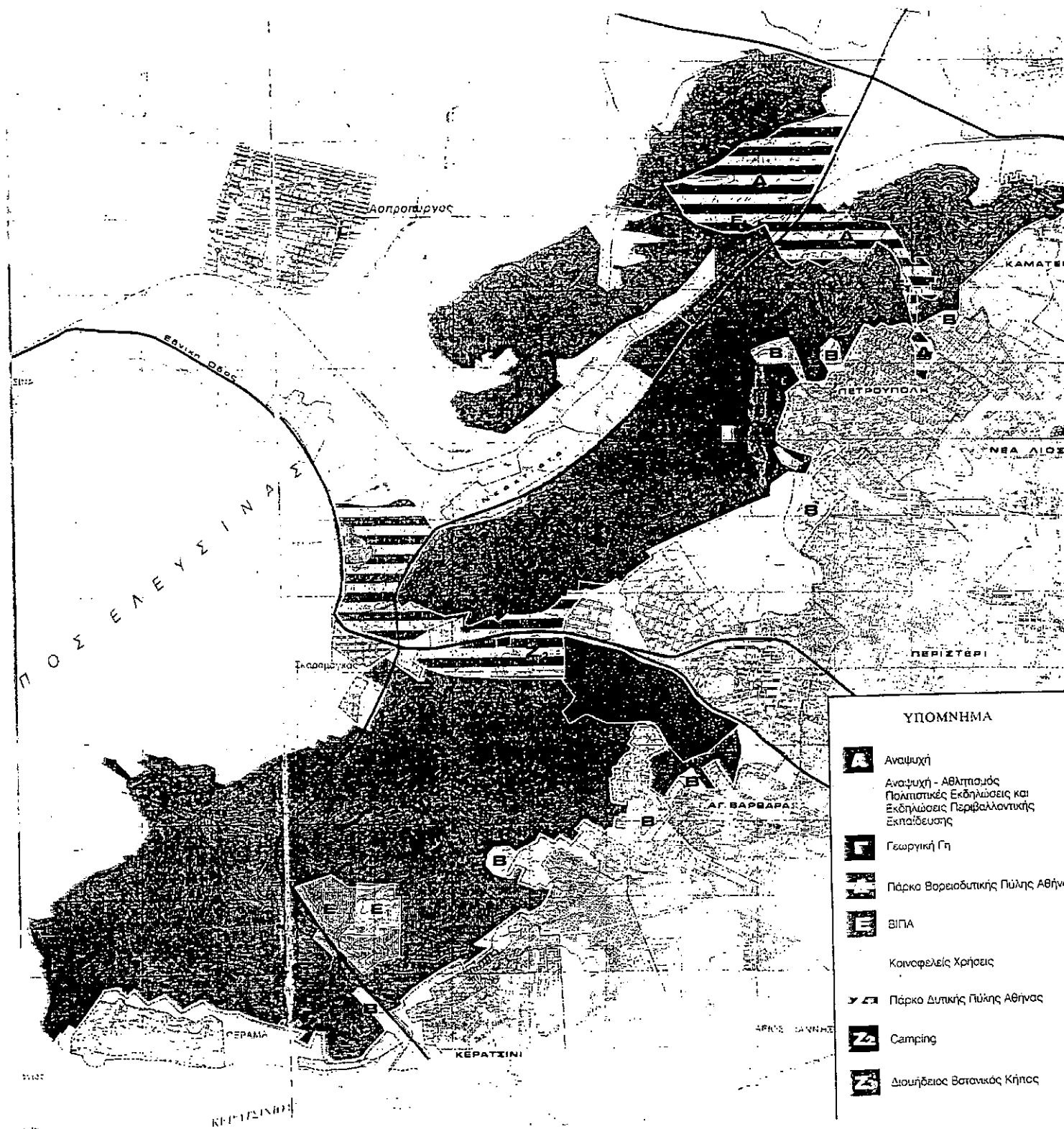
- The coastal area of the Faliron Bay, the southern sea front, in order to create a live opening of the city towards the sea, with the reformation of the coastal avenue, the creation of a Center of Nautical Installations, development of large areas of natural environment with athletic, cultural and recreational installations, the formation of a system of pedestrian roads as access points to the surrounding area, with paths through the greenery, and the construction of a tramway line along the coast. These works will be adapted to the needs of the Olympic Games, with the creation of a number of sports fields, while the Racecourse are will be converted into a Conference Center and exhibition areas.



354. The proposal for the formation of the Faliron coastal zone, with athletic installations (source: Publication in the Press)



Model of Faliro coastal zone (source: Organization Athens)



356. The Program for the Protection of Egaleo Mountain (source: Organization Athens)

The Faliro region, from the "Peace and Friendship" Stadium up to Delta, is an area where there are debris, garbage's, sports fields a marina, abandoned cars, bus terminals etc, i.e uses occurred accidentally.

This area of 2,5 Kilometers long, and 400 meters wide today an area bound for the pedestrians, will be converted into a recreation pole. The region has been divided in three parts.

- a. the area between Ilissos and Kifissos, where the two beach-volley fields will be installed (one of them permanent).
- b. The area between Ilissos and Esplanade, which will be a continuation of Syngrou avenue towards the sea.
- c. Between Espanade and Faliro, where the Box, Hand-ball and Tae-kwo-do fields will be installed.

Esplanade will be especially for pedestrian use, with a combination of trees, grass, earth, and pathways. Its overhead part which will be 190 meters will be a passage, while in the rest Kiosks will be installed.

In the Ecological Park the aim is the preservation and projection of the hydro-biotope, with a artificial hill of 12m. height as a mater collector.

Pedestrians' access to the beach which today is not possible, due to coastal avenue, will be through Esplanade and other pedestrian bridges.

- Keramikos area and Gazohori, which include the "Third Square", according to the first Urban Plan by Kleanthis – Schaubert, which was never realized. This downgraded area incorporates the archaeological site of Keramikos, (i.e. the Public Cemetery for the citizens of Ancient Athens), and various functions, (the residential, the ex – industrial, the Gazi area, – etc) which have to be reorganized, and converted into a cultural and leisure center for the broader region. The planned reorganization includes the replantation of the entire area in order to create large green sections, with athletic and recreational installations with the reformation of the related residential areas, and the elevation of the archaeological site of Keramikos into the framework of the Unification of Archaeological Spaces of Athens.
- The Repossession of the area of "Eleonas", (Olive Grove) an area of 900 hectares on the Western side of Athens, which until 1940 was an Olive Plantation of great environmental and aesthetic importance, which had been downgraded over the last

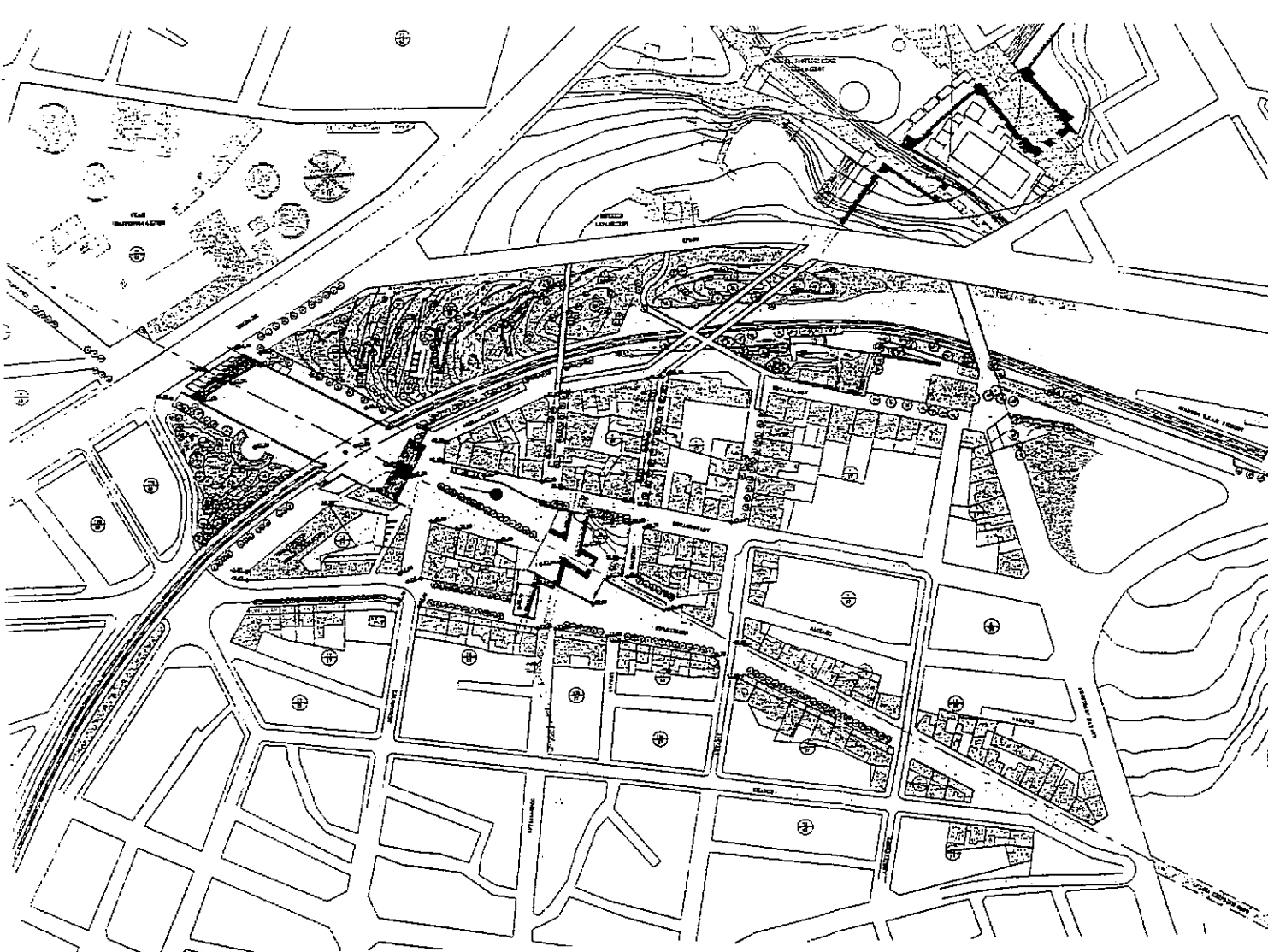


357. Plan and perspectives of Dionyssiou Aeropagitou and Apostolou Pavlou formation, a part of the Unification of Archaeological spaces (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

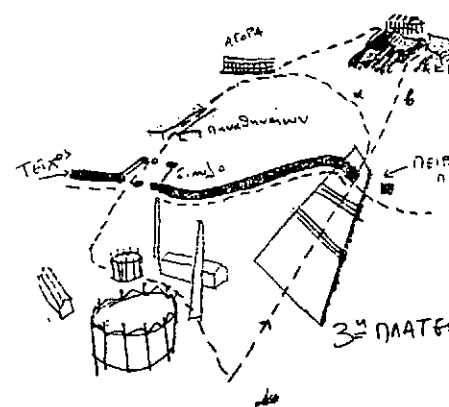
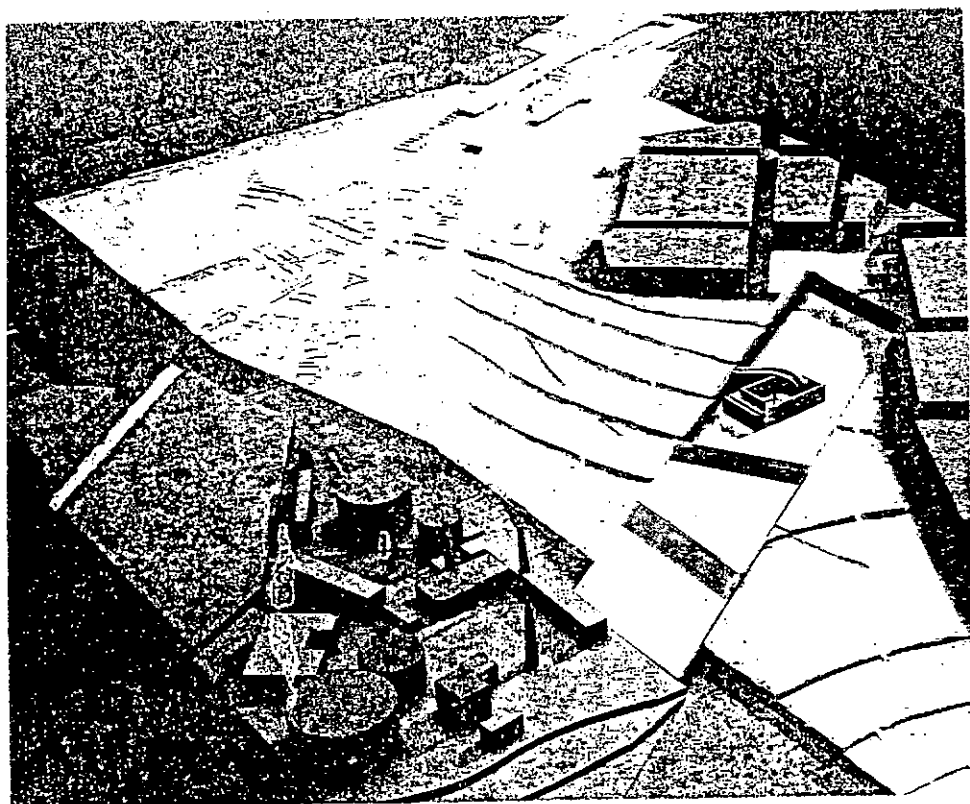
60 years with various industrial installations, residential areas and military barracks.

On the occasion of the 2004 Olympic Games, this area must be reorganized, according to studies, with the creation of large green areas of 75 hectares, the extension of the Metro network, limitation of industrial installations, creation of areas for culture and leisure for the broader area, with installations for functions of national significance, such as National Library, Conference Center, etc, projection of the archaeological importance of "Iera Odos" i.e. the Sacred Way, the "Dimossio Sima" i.e. the Public Sign, (the cemetery of distinguished citizens) and reorganization of the Transportation System of the entire area.

- The Olympic Village, a new town for 16.000 people interacting with the Olympic games organization, which will be later converted into a residential area for 10.000 inhabitants, is designed at the foot of Parnis mountain, in an area of 1250 stremmas. It is ideally situated with excellent views, good climate and solar conditions. Its construction should be carried out under environmental and sustainability terms, based on contemporary bio-climatic and functional concepts, and with advanced technology. A large part of this settlement (30.000m²) will be allocated for the creation of an «International zone» i.e. an area with recreation, communication, commercial etc. installations, and Open Public Spaces.
- The Unification of Archaeological Spaces. The idea for the Unification of the Archaeological Spaces of Athens was drafted since 1928 (C. Biris and others) and was recalled on various occasions. In 1983, the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works presented the "Archaeological Park" and in 1987 elaborated a Master Plan which determined the area of interventions. The Unification of the Archaeological Spaces is the biggest town planning intervention in the city of Athens, which aims to :
 - present the historical city and designate its architectural and Urban physiognomy.
 - elevate the Neoclassical Athens and the define its aesthetics, scale and typology.
 - determine a number of land uses, related to Open Public Spaces and buildings.
 - handle issues and problems related to automobile circulation and prospectively install a tramway system.



358.The proposal for the formation of the "Third Square" (Kanarelis, Papadopoulou, 1997)



359.The proposal for the formation of the "Third Square" (Kanarelis, Papadopoulou, 1997)

The whole programme consists of six large units :

1. In the East, the section containing Ardittos hill, the Stadium, and the area of Olympian Zeus Temple.
2. The axis of Dionyssios of Aeropagus–Apostle Paul and formations on Philopappou Hill and in the Makriyanni district.
3. The Ancient Athenian and Roman Agora, with Adrian's Library and Plaka.
4. The area between Thissio, Keramikos and Gazi, Pireaus street and the beginning of Iera Odos (Sacred Way).
5. The areas of Psiri, Metaxourgio, and Plato's Academy.
6. The "Commercial Triangle" (Stadiou, Mitropoleos, Ermou, Athinas) and Monastiraki.

The local interventions provided a number of major works such as :

- Pedestrianization of central roads, such as Vassilissis Olgas, D.Aeropagus, Ap. Paul's, a part of Sacred Way, Ermou, and a network of pedestrian roads in Plaka, Psiri Metaxourgio, Thissio, Kolonos.
- Restorations of Monuments, formations of archeological sites and archaeological promenades.
- Reconstruction and aesthetic restorations of buildings.
- Reformations of Open Public Spaces, in the "Historic Center" of Athens.

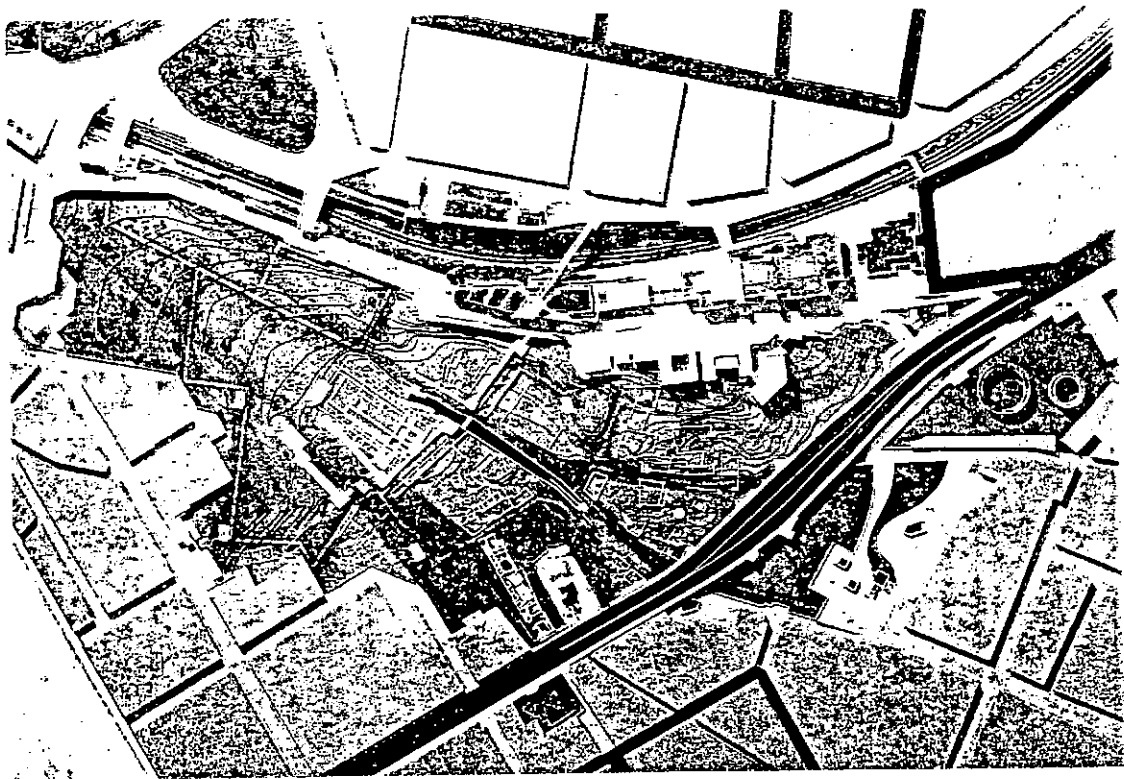
For the application of the latter one, a number of Architectural Competitions have been announced, for the squares of Omonia, Syntagma, Monastiraki, Koumoundourou, and the first prizes are forwarded for realization. Among them, only in Syntagma square, there is an attempt by the design to maintain its historic and Monumental "Character" in the formation of the space. The proposals for the other three squares are functional and interesting designs, referring to contemporary international tendencies, but with no attempt to consider the character, physiognomy and "Genius Loci" of the space. In this way, there is a danger that significant Public Spaces will loose their Historic reference and significance.

- The formation of the estate "Eptalofos" or "Queens' Tower" of an area of 120Ha, in the northern-west side of Athens, near Acharnon Municipality, to an extended Public Park for Environmental Sensitivity, on items of Environments' protection and natural ecosystems. The works in this park have advanced, and a big part of it has been constructed, but there are still accessibility and management problems.

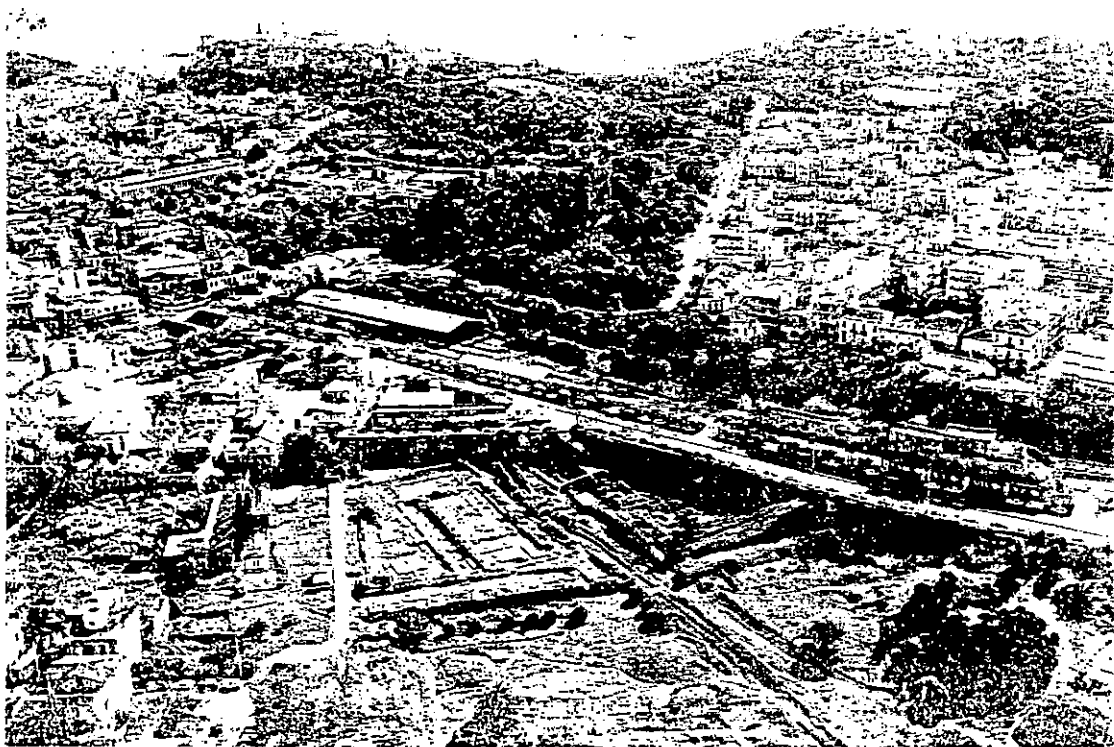
- The creation of a regional Park in the south-west side of Athens, on the hills called Safepitsari, in the borders between Nikea and Keratsini Municipalities, with an intense lack of green spaces, of an area of 63Ha. In this area, which had been disfigured by the operation of quarries, a new Public "Park of activities" is scheduled, with amusement, cultural and athletic activities (as climbing on the rocky sides of former quarries etc.) and large Green areas, which will upgrade the adjacent residential region.

In 1997, the "Organization of Master Plan and of Environment's Protection of Athens", or "Organization Athens", has assigned studies of large scale Open Public Spaces formation, as :

- The "Metropolitan Park of Goudi" in a former military camp's area, which is a large Public Park with Green areas and cultural, athletic and leisure functions. This Park will also incorporate the existing in this area, Health, Welfare, Education, Administration functions. This Park has a lot of possibilities, presents for the moment management problems, as it is belonging to seven Municipalities, the Municipality of Athens included.
- The Tourkovounia Hill (Attic Grove), is included in the system of over local poles of leisure, athletic installations and cultural activities. The formations will be towards the plantation of this area that has still remained unbuilt, and the creation of large groves, combined with above functions.
- In 1996 the study for the creation of a "Metropolitan Park in Ellinico" of 600ha, in the area of the former airport, after its shifting in Spata, in Messogia area. This Park will be a large over-local pole with extended Green areas, with environmental and leisure dimensions, and possibilities of recreation, athletic games and cultural activities. Due to Parks' significance and size, a number of alternative programmes has been submitted by the studying group. The contribution of this Park to the upgrading of South – Eastern districts will be great, but there exist many problems in relation to its final programme and its management. Recently, the incorporation of some of the Olympic games has been required.
- In order to achieve an integrated structure and position of Open Public Spaces in Athens' basin, these have been incorporated in a Large Programme of "Unification of Green Areas of Athens Basin", of Metropolitan and also of Local character, aiming to the creation of an extensive network of "green routes and



361. Model of the proposal for the formation of Keramikos area (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)



362. Aerial view of Keramikos and Ancient Agora areas as they are today (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

corridors" in the Urban fabric and their interconnection with the natural Environment.

The Metro's stations, inaugurated in January 2000, a continuation of Open Public Space at a lower level, brought space quality to Public Space, in relation to their construction, the historic items found during excavations and exhibited, as well as Greek Art works which were specifically created for the stations. All these attempts offered a more civilized and "European" atmosphere to Public Spaces and consisted a good example for other Open Public Spaces.

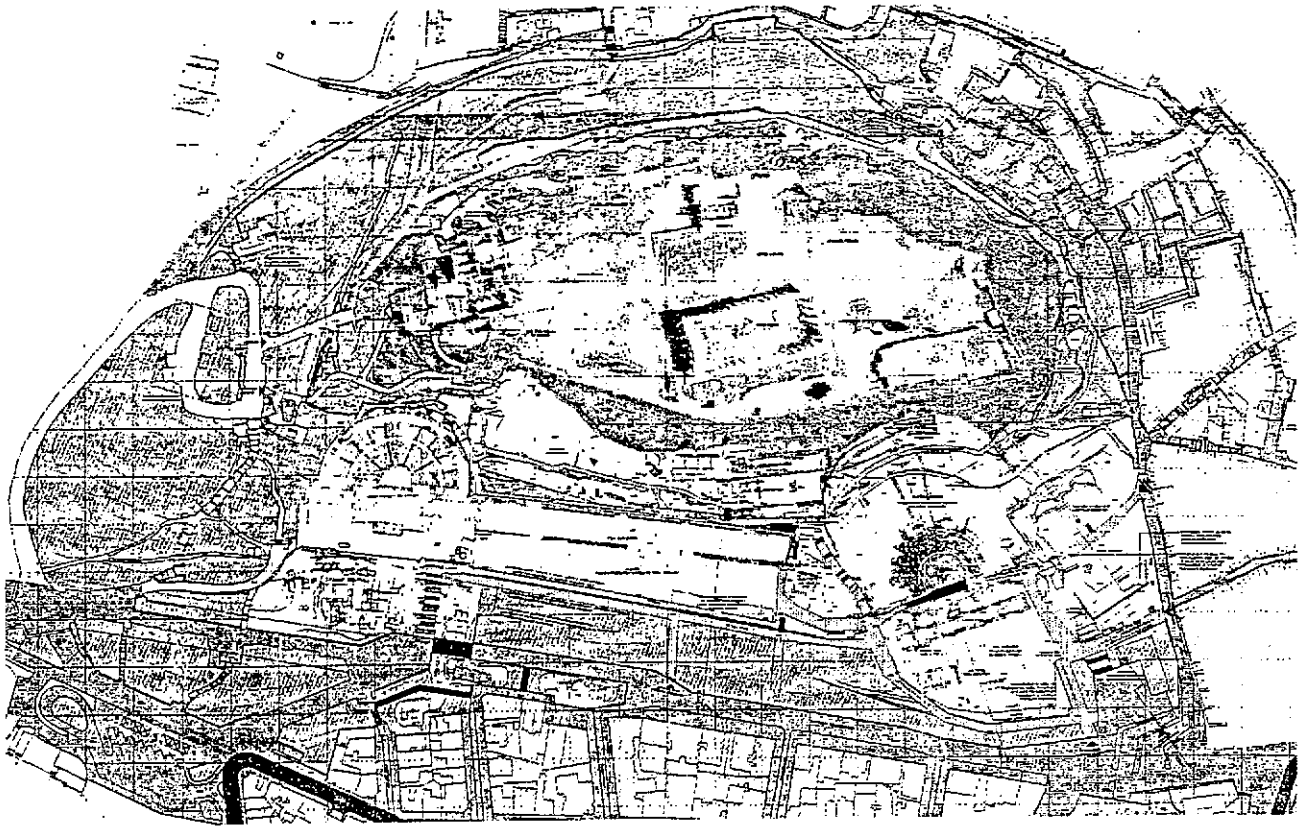
As the excavation for the Metro construction has been the biggest archaeological excavation ever done in Athens, a very large number of ancient objects and remains have surfaced. A number of these items, have been exhibited in Metro stations, connecting today's life with ancient times.

Finally, at the end of 2000, an experiment conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works, concerning the car-free zoning of the city space, took place. In a part of the central area of Athens, (Klathmonos square and Stadiou Street), car circulation was ceased for one day, and the public space was rendered to pedestrians and cyclists, and the fact was celebrated with music concerts. The success of the event led to the assurance that it will be repeated more often in the future, so that urban space will be offered for the use of its inhabitants and for the benefit of pedestrians. The ability for a number of live events to take place, will provide the city with an air of liveliness.

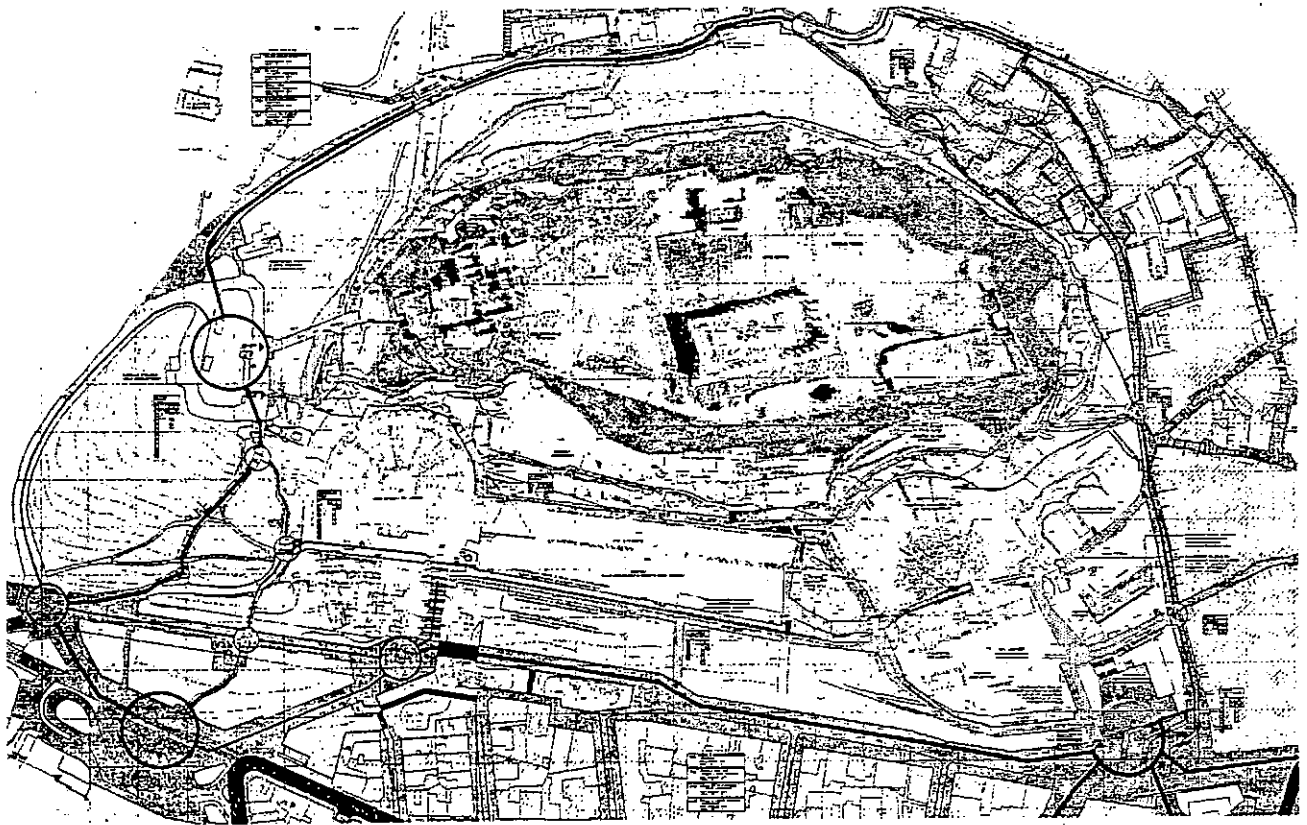
From the reviewing of this period, we come to a conclusion that the Open Public Spaces have been incorporated in large scale reformation of Attica's region and are handled with a generally developmental approach.

The predominance of the new needs caused by 2004 Olympic Games' Organization and the shifting of Athens Airport to Messogia area, created priorities for the development of the relevant areas.

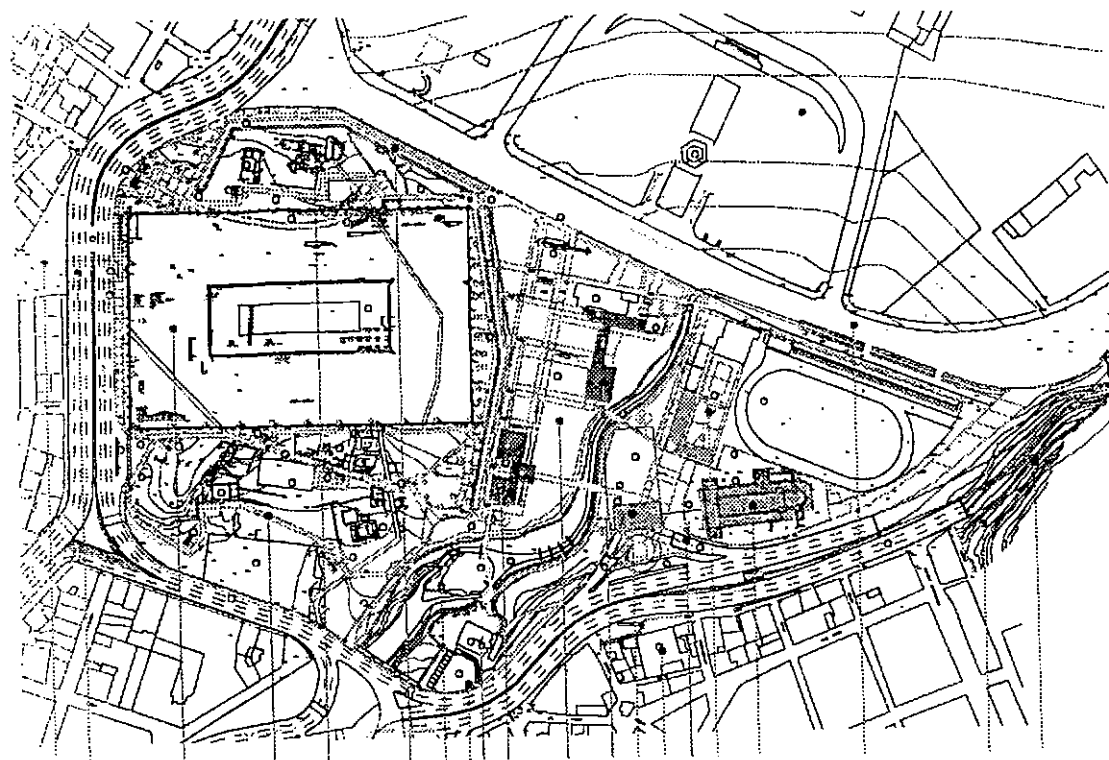
This fact enormously affected the whole approach in the planning of these areas, as from the small scale interventions with the appropriate attention paid on the Open Public Spaces' formation and character, in relation to its historic or natural environment, the new projects are of a large scale Landscape Architecture, with quite different intervening factors. Examples are, the Plan for the Unification of Archaeological spaces and the coastal zone of the Faliron bay.



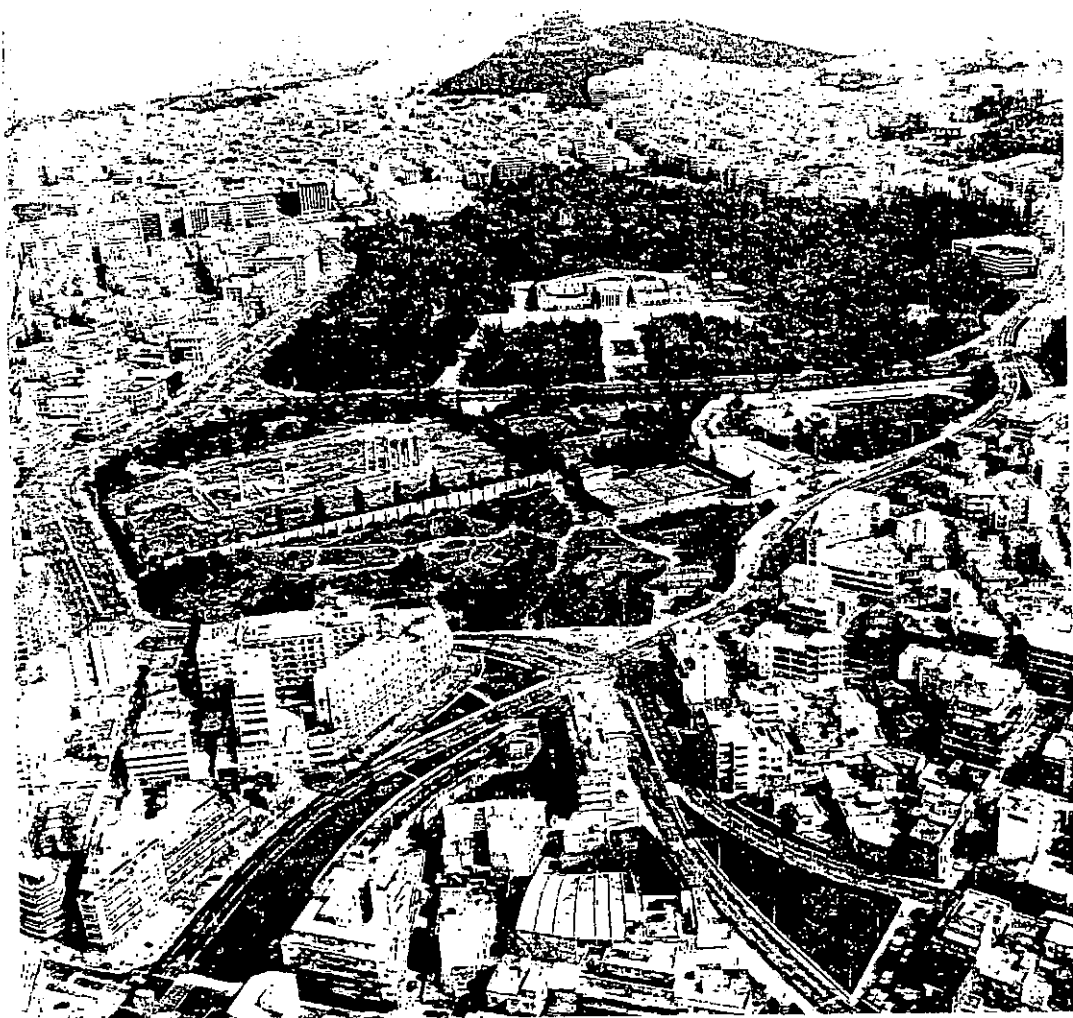
363. The study for the reformation of the areas surrounding the Acropolis (source:
Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

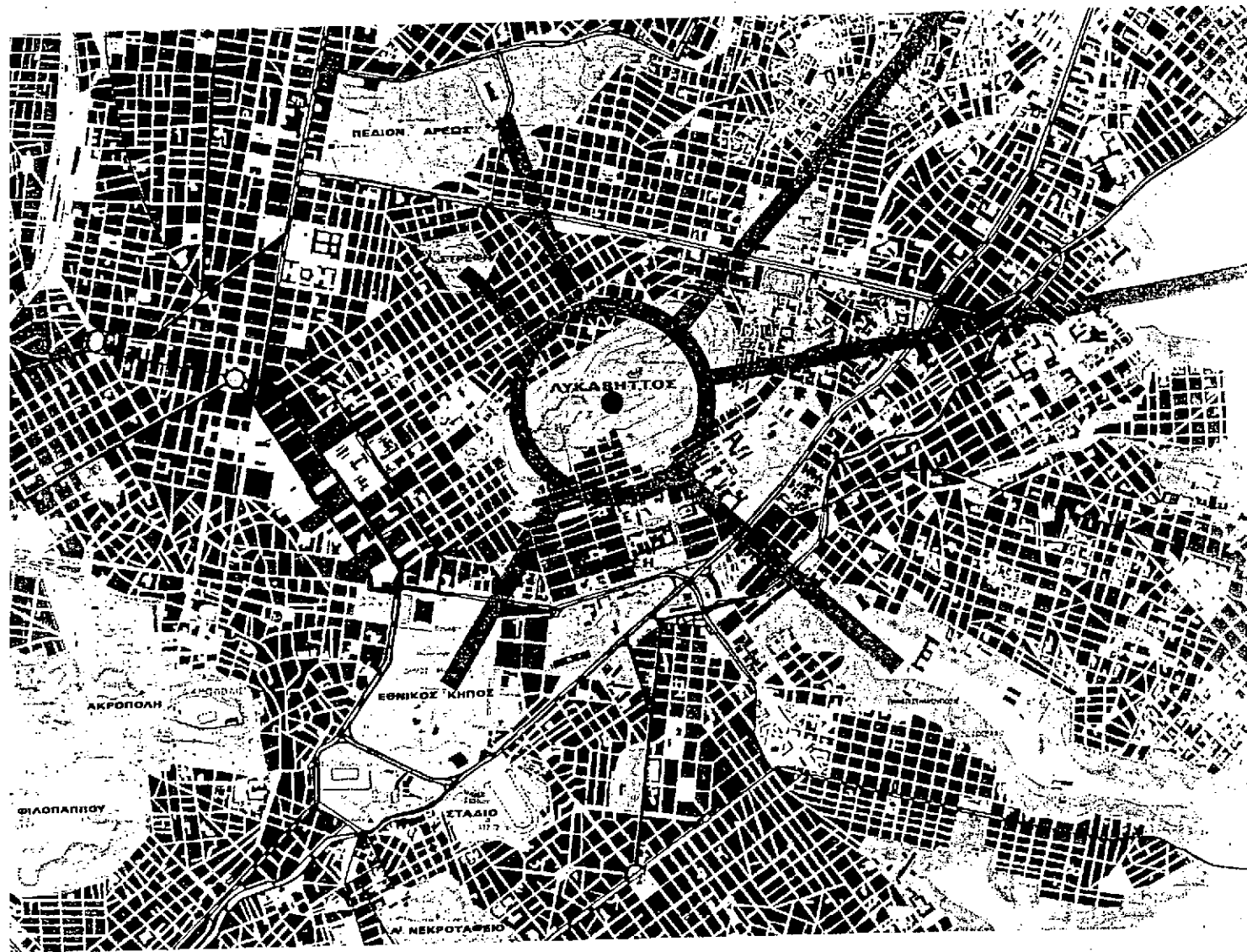


364. The study for the reformation of the areas surrounding the Acropolis (source:
Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)

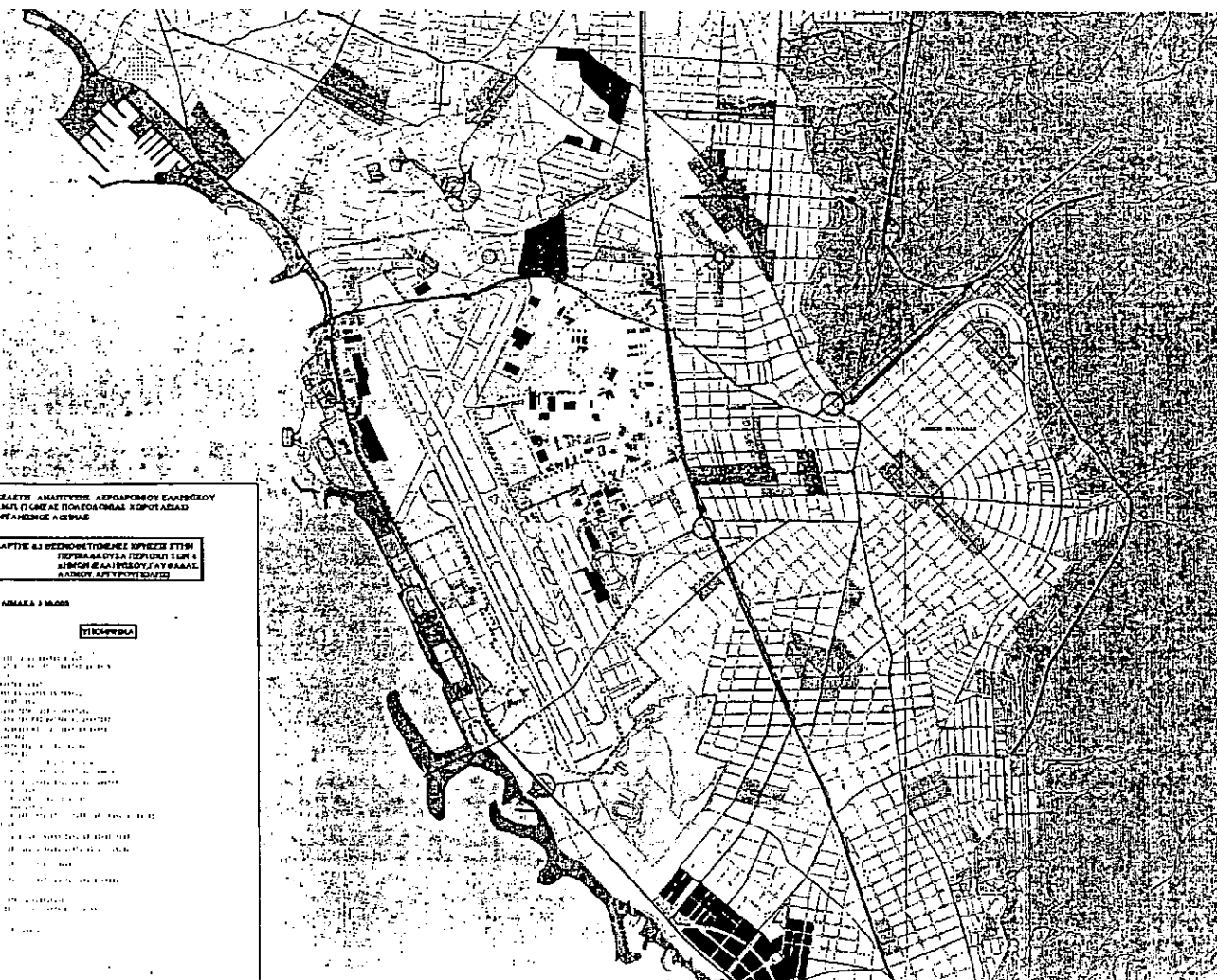


365. The study for the reformation of the areas of the Olympic Zeus' Temple (source: Unification of Archaeological Spaces SA)





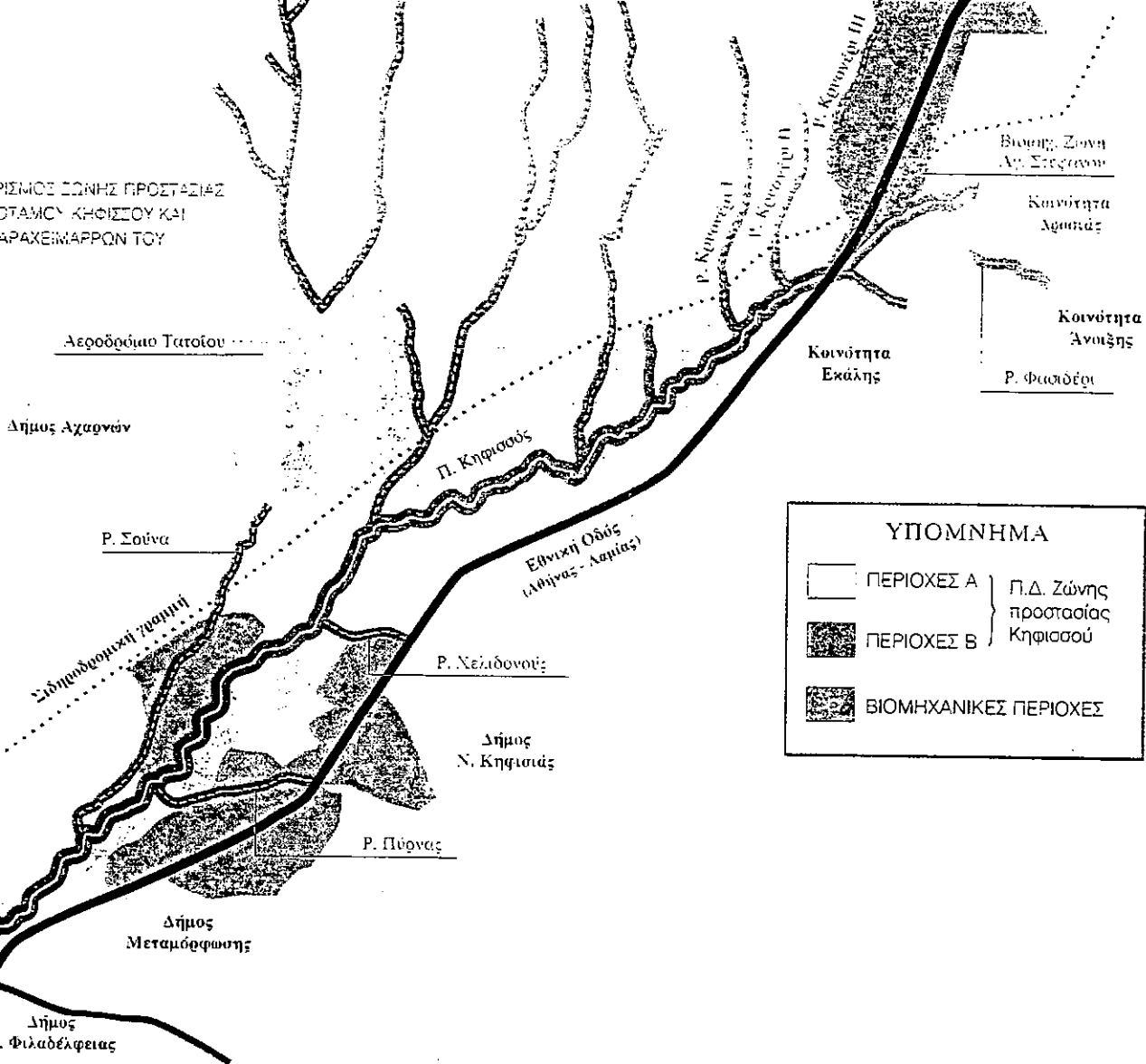
366. The Program for the Unification of Green areas of Athens' center (source:
Organization Athens)



367. The proposal for the formation of the Metropolitan Multi-Functional Recreation
Park in the area of former Athens' Airport in Elliniko (source: Publication in the Press)



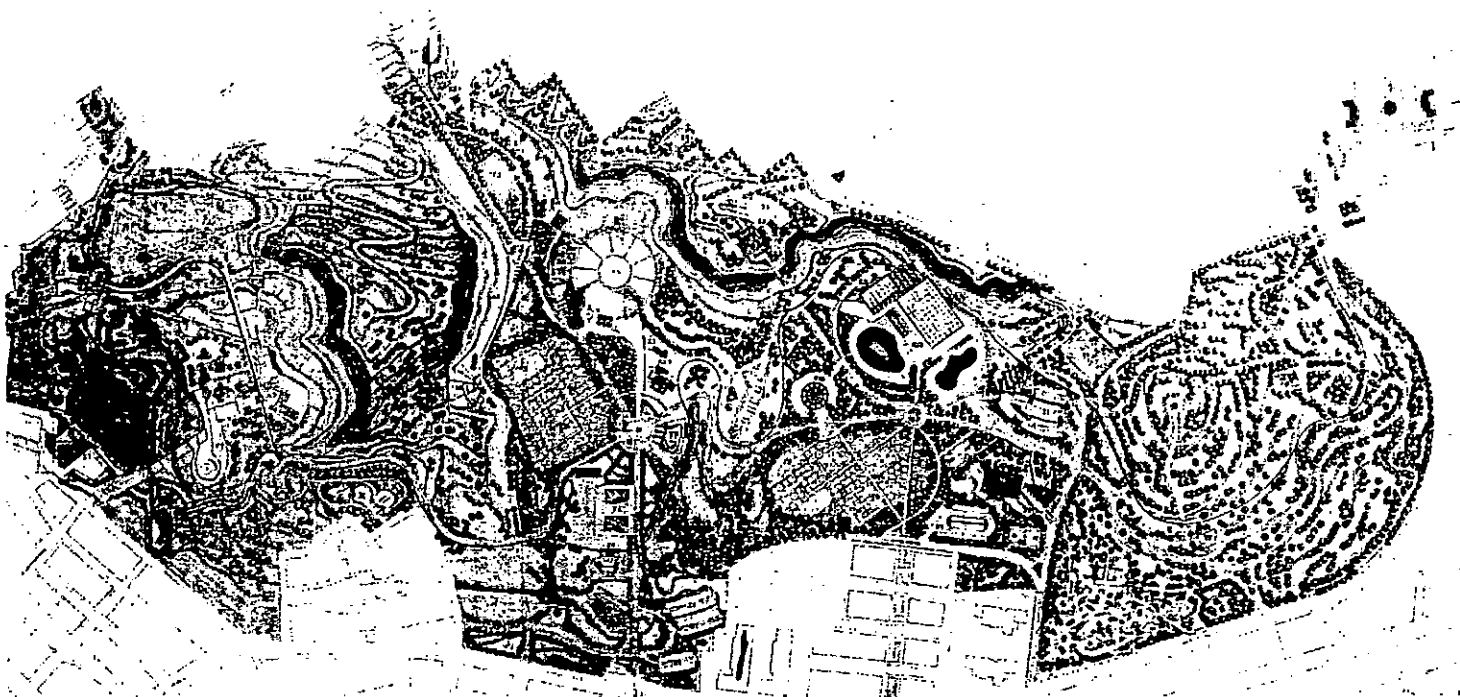
368. Landscape formation of old quarries in Dionyssos (N. Golanda, 1999, source: Design and Art in Greece 2000)



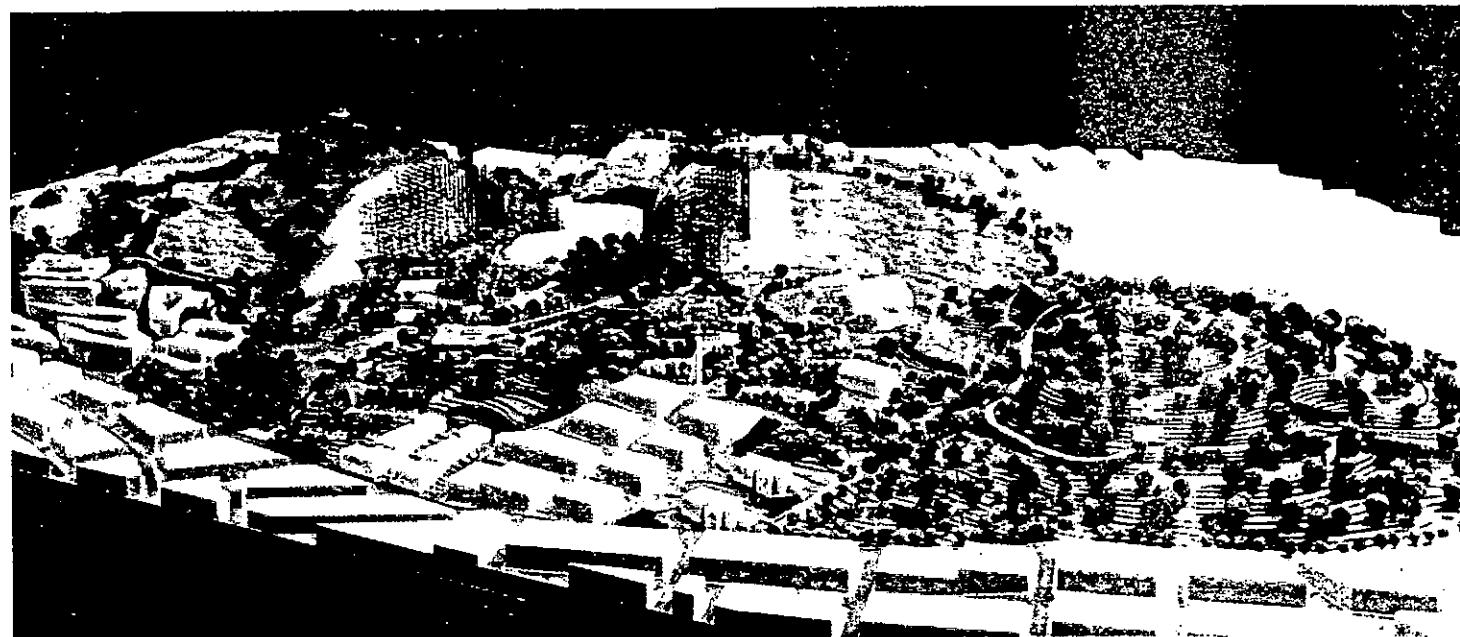
369. Study for the Protection Zone of Kifissos river (1994) (source: Organization Athens)



370. Study for the Protection Zone of Kifissos river (1994) (source: Organization Athens)



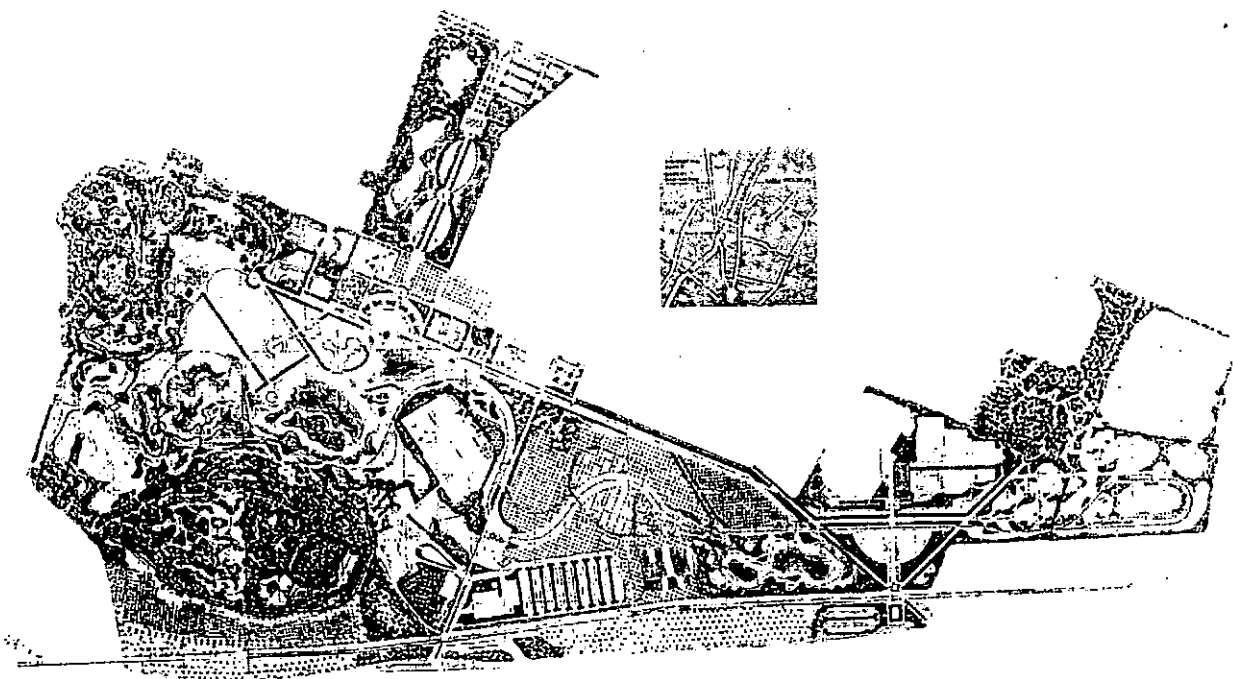
371. Proposal for the formation of "Salepitsari" old quarries into a leisure and Cultural Public Park (source: Organization Athens)



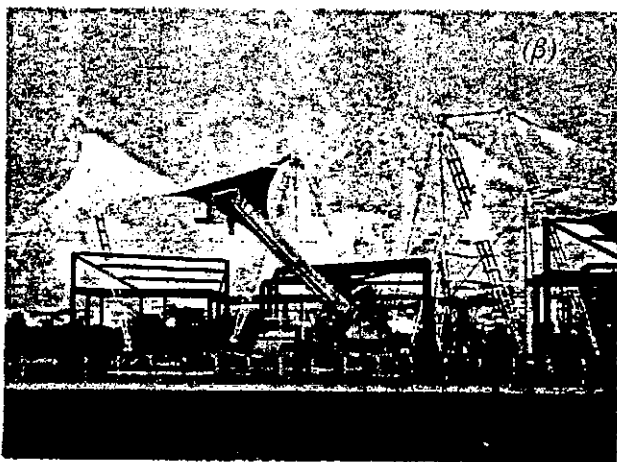
372. Proposal for the formation of "Salepitsari" old quarries into a leisure and Cultural Public Park (source: Organization Athens)

On the other hand, the proposals for the formation of independent Open Public Spaces, which are on a smaller scale, have been affected by contemporary such as the Post-Modern and Late-Modern movement, as well as the High – Tech, with an eclectic logic, following international patterns.

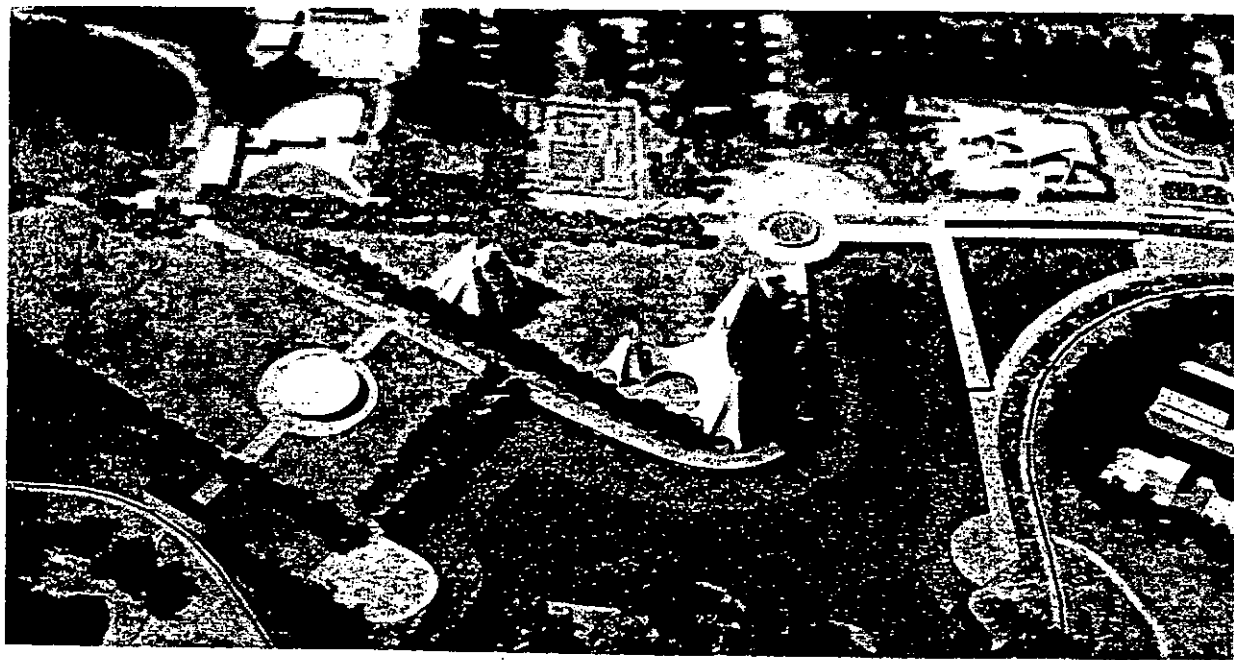
These proposals provide an alienated character to significant central Open Public Spaces and are in discrepancy with the historical character of the spaces. Examples are the projects for Omonia, Syntagma and Monastiraki squares.



373. The Park of "Environmental Sensitivity" in Ag. Anargyri (source: Organization Athens)



374. The Park of "Environmental Sensitivity" in Ag. Anargyri (source: Organization Athens)



375. The Park of "Environmental Sensitivity" in Ag. Anargyri (source: Organization Athens)

3.9 Conclusions

The search and recognition of Open Public Spaces of Athens

As admitted in many Master Plans and other Town Planning studies of Athens, many problems exist, related to Open Public Spaces, such as haphazard evolution, traffic problems, air pollution, lack of social infrastructure etc. However, the historical presence remains in Athens with a lot of possibilities for development and improvement of life quality.

The urban scenery has been changed considerably in the Post-War period, by the demolition and reconstruction of residential areas and today's urban Landscape shows the maltreatment of space, although the long historic background is still obvious in some elements of the urban environment, such as the location and layout of the city, its topography, the urban fabric and monuments, and their relationships with the natural Landscape.

The reconstruction of the residential areas of Greek cities, determined by economic and social needs of the post War era, held a "Modern" influence in its architectural approach, which combined with the allowance for enormous building volume, destroyed the small scale human environment of the cities, along with the specific architectural character of each one.

Open Public Spaces in Athens, are very few and mostly inadequate, (approx. 3.0. m² per inhabitant) and only some of them can be unified in order to comprise large entities.

The natural Landscape, surrounded by hills, provides interesting views, which should be taken into consideration in the design of Open Spaces.

The recognition of the cultural environment is at the same time social and perceptive, it is a search for the history, time, way of production and its development, its uses and its character as perceived by the inhabitants.

It is necessary to comprehend the "Genius Loci", the "spirit of the place" of a certain space, in order to be able to generally design and reform the space.

The attempt for the understanding of the Open Public Spaces of Athens is of great importance for the inhabitant and is connected on a daily basis with its development, urban planning and architectural formation of its space.

The design interventions, in the urban spaces of Greek towns till now, with squares, pedestrian roads, open spaces, did not succeed, except in a few cases, to assemble coherent projects and compose points of reference.

Another problem of Athens and other Greek towns is the pursuit to re-determine their space identity which has altered with the abuse of the urban space over the last 35 years, by the search and design of the collective, public character of open urban spaces and the expression of the community's urban consciousness.

Nevertheless, due to their cultural heritage, Greek towns and especially Athens, remain a stimulating environment, for its inhabitants and visitors, despite all the space maltreatment and there are many possibilities for the improvement of the quality of Open Public Spaces.

Researches about the principles and rational solutions of Open Public Spaces in residential areas show that differentiated handlings of these items are required, according to :

- The natural characteristics of the environment.
- The predominant uses of the area, and their relations to the other ones.
- The kind of constructions and the density of the area.
- The legislation framework and the property situation.
- Other factors related to population, culture etc.

In Athens, pedestrianizations have usually been applied mostly to narrow streets, and are not based on a general plan, aiming to consist a general pedestrian network in the city. More ambitious proposals, as the pedestrianization of Panepistimiou street, has not been applied so far, due to heavy circulation problems of this area.

The downgrading of the significance of Open Public Spaces, through the process of its materialization, as well as by the elimination of social activities which the specific Space is supporting, has as result, the inadequate consistency of design ideology. Contemporary examples of Open Public Spaces' formation compose occasional solutions of the problems and do not permit an integrated composition. According to the design programme of the space, the scheduled activities and behaviors should consist the basic framework for spaces' organization in today's city life context.

Moreover, any autonomous elements of Space's equipment must be signaled by the internal relationships of Spaces' geometrical organization.

The realization of the gravity of problems of city's and environment's conditions led to partial revision of Governmental attitude in relation to these problems.

During the recent years, there is a change of the interest of State in relation to Open Public Spaces towards the creation of extensive Open Spaces and Metropolitan Parks, usually belonging to more than one Municipalities areas.

The large programmes of Open Public Spaces in Athens during the recent years, on the occasion of the 2004 Olympic Games and also other programmes imposed by new needs, as for instance the shifting of Athens' Airport to a new place and their possible repercussions on city's organization, are very hopeful for the improvement of the overall situation in Athens, as far as Open Public Spaces are concerned.

In the programmes of the above mentioned new large Parks, a differentiation and specification of the role and the uses of each one has to be noticed, according to the needs of the area in which they are placed, the special character of space and its historical development.

The size of the Open Public Space in relation to States' interventions in the recent period is increasing, and the relevant programmes become more complicated, of a mutli-functional character and refer to larger Urban regions.

At the same time, there is a State intervention in traditional Open Public Spaces, as the squares and streets in Athens Historic Center, by organizing Architectural competitions on this subject. However, the proposals are influenced by contemporary international trends resulting the loss of a Greek, or Athenian, character of the space.

The lack of coordination among Public Organizations, as far as issues related to Open Public Spaces are concerned, led to the modification of Space's structure and the downgrading of Space's character and image.

4. CASE STUDIES

4.1. SYNTAGMA SQUARE

4.1.1 Structural and Functional dimension

4.1.1.1. Location of the Square in the Urban Structure

Syntagma Square is located in the center of Athens, more precisely is one of the main squares proposed by the first Town Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert, which due to the presence of the Palace, became the real center of the city.

The presence of the two significant elements – landmarks of the Attican Landscape, the Acropolis' Rock (in a distance of 800m.) and Lycabettus Hill (in a distance of 1000m) is decisive for Syntagma Square, as they determine a North-East - South-West axis, which intersects the Square and places it in the middle of the concavity created by these two ground risings of Attic Landscape.

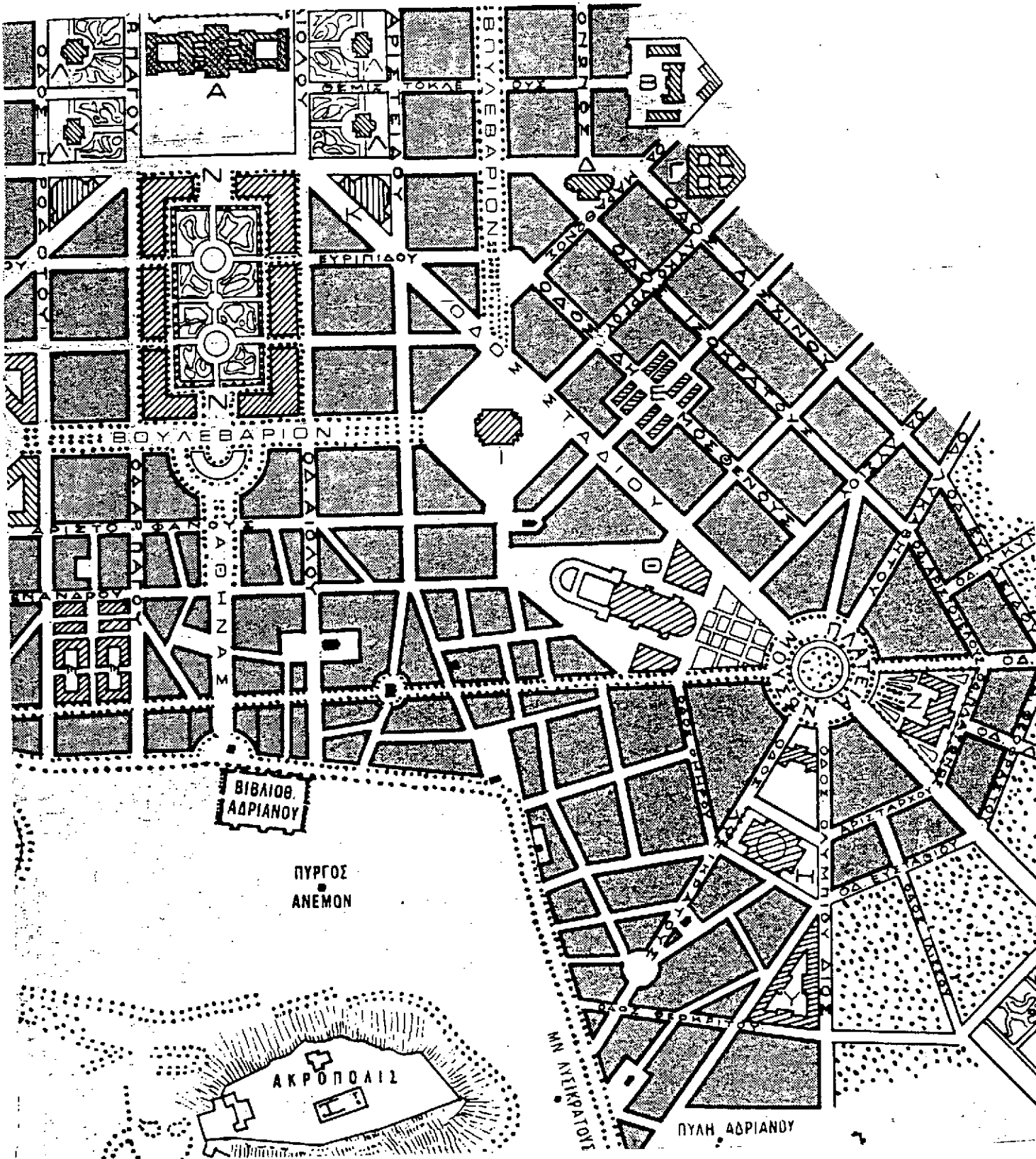
Another imaginary axis intersecting the Square and the previous axis under 90° angle is determined by Stadiou Street and coincides with the axis of Panathenian Stadium.

These two axes provide, along with their perpendiculars, the basic directions in Neoclassical Athens' street layout.

The region from Omonia to Syntagma Square and mainly along the streets Panepistimiou and Stadiou, is characterized by its neoclassical layout, with clear hierarchy of streets network and relatively large scale properties and large Open Public Spaces, such as Omonia Square, Klafthmonos Square, Syntagma Square and large public buildings (Banks, Stock Exchange, Public Services, Commercial Centers etc).

The area is characterized by the presence of post-war buildings, products of the city reconstruction of the '50s and '60s.

The East-West axis of the Square is continued through Ermou Street, the most significant commercial road of the city, and is extended to the heart of the old town.



376. Syntagma Square, according to Kleanthis - Schaubert Plan (1834), a circular square named Muses' square. A = the Royal Palace (source: Biris 1996)

4.1.1.2. Relationships with the Urban environment

Syntagma is at the heart of contemporary Athens and is served by several streets, which represent physical, cultural, political and intellectual connections with the rest of the city.

The streets that were opened according to Kleanthis-Schaubert plan, connected Syntagma Square and the Palace with the old city (Ermou Street), with cultural production (Panepistimiou Street), with Church (Mitropoleos Street), led to the surrounding countryside (Vassilissis Sofias or Kifissias avenue), and connected with old landmarks (Amalias Avenue).

Today, Panepistimiou Street continues to function as the connection of the State in the form of the Parliament to the cultural institutions of Athens, such as National Library, University and Academy. It enters into the top of Syntagma Square, at the most congested point, therefore views are primarily of buses and cars, particularly at rush hours.

At that point, the dominant feature, except for the Parliament, is the Grande Bretagne Hotel.

Amalias Avenue, so called after Amalia, the first Queen, ends at Syntagma Square, connecting it to the ancient site of Olympeion (Olympian Zeus' Temple).

Once being the Athenians' favoured promenade street, with pepper trees and upper class mansions, today is one of the most congested streets of the central city is one of few roads to access the southern part of Athens.

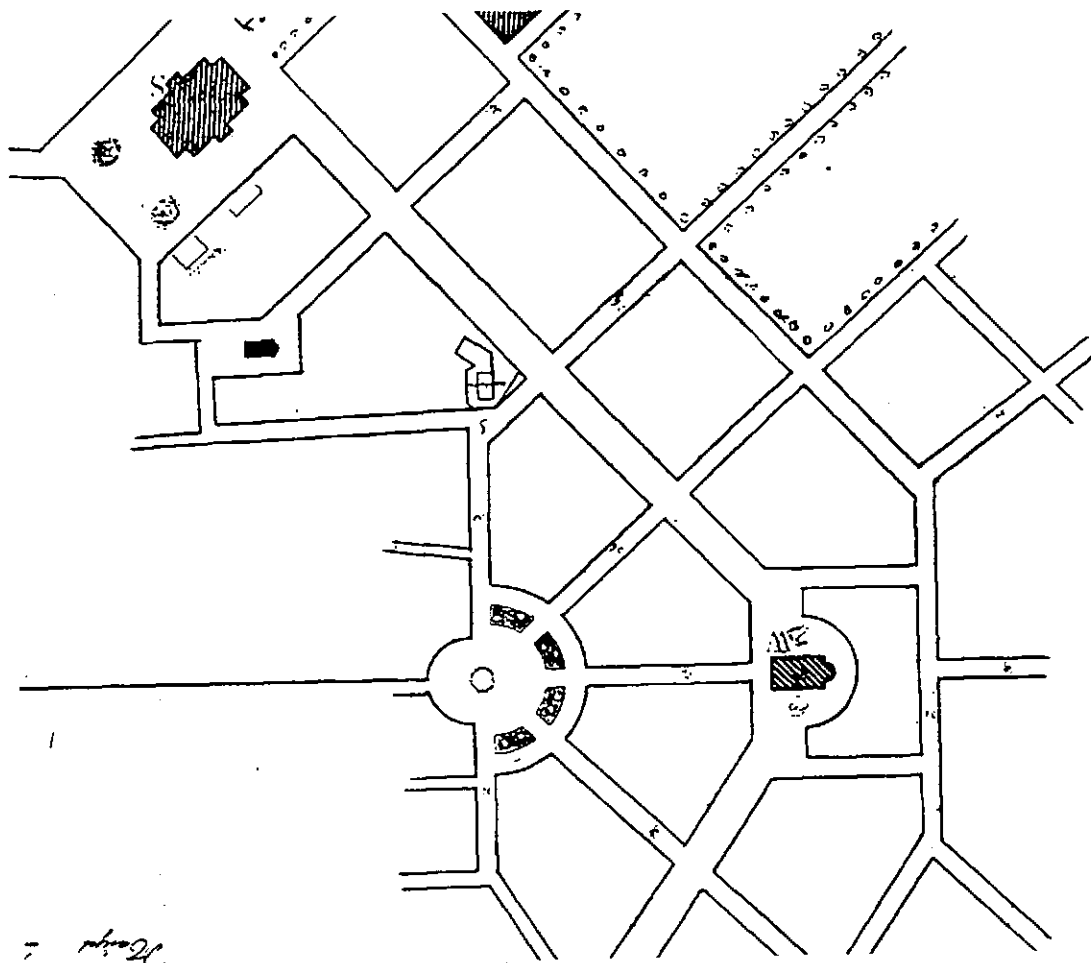
However, it is agreeable, having the lush vegetation of the National Garden on one side, Banks and enterprises' buildings on the other, and nice views towards Lycabettus Hill and Olympian Zeus Temple.

Vassilissis Sofias Avenue, once called Kifissias Street, as it was leading to Kifissia suburb, is an elegant, tree-lined street along which, Embassies and other neoclassical buildings are situated.

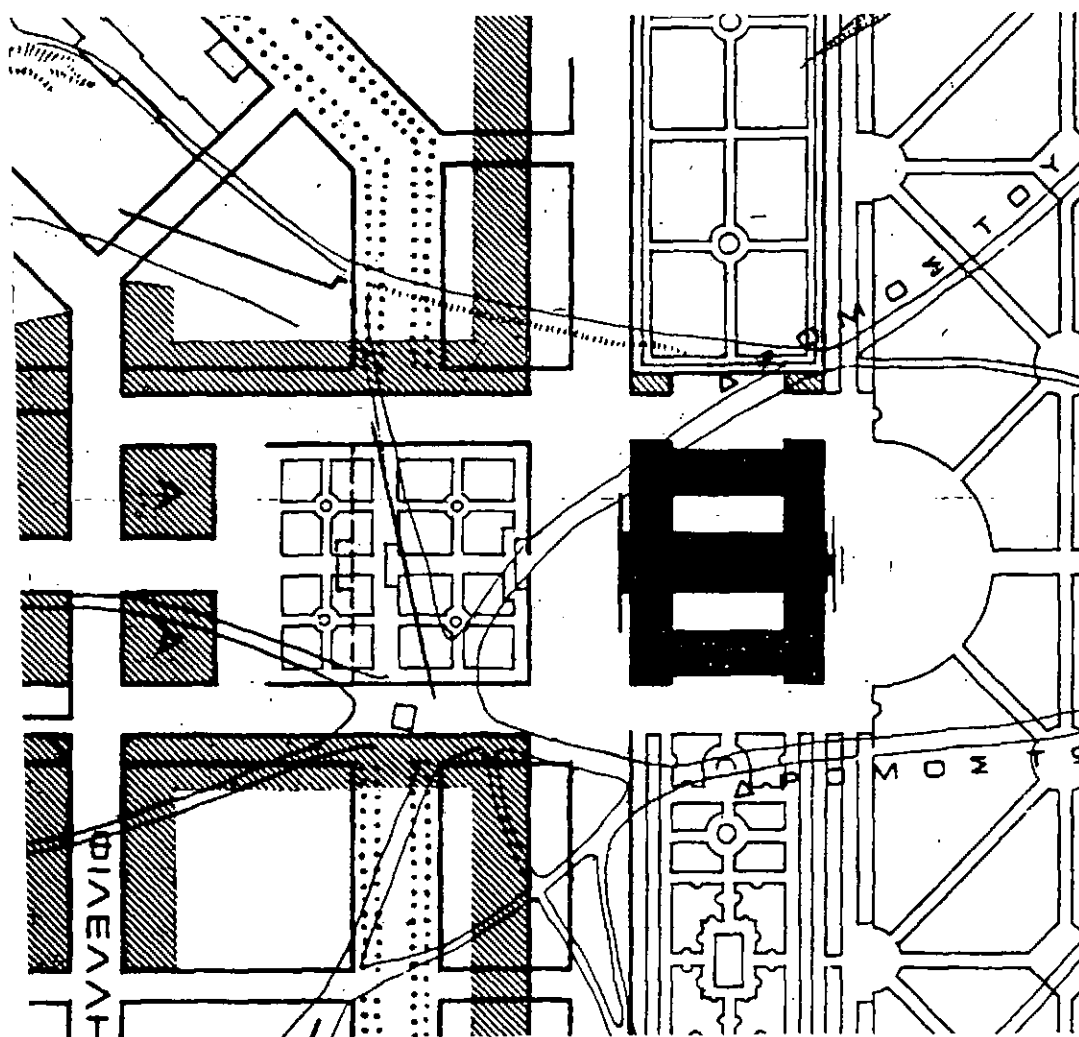
Vassilissis Sofias provides an interesting entry into Syntagma Square as it is offset and ends at the Grande Bretagne Hotel.

Framed by trees, the views of the hotel and the north side of the Parliament building are from a higher elevation as one nears the Square.

Ermou Street, recently converted into a pedestrian street, is terminating directly on axis with the Parliament building. It is the most famous of the traditional commercial streets of the city, with luxurious shops.



377. Syntagma Square with a church, by L. von Klenze (1834) (source: Biris 1996)



378. Syntagma Square and the Royal Palace by Fr. Gartner (1836) (source: Biris 1996)

Ermou Street represents a connection of modern Athens with its past, directly tying Syntagma to the public markets of the older town of Monastiraki.

From Ermou Street views towards the Square center and the Parliament building, which is dominating the scene, are framed by the trees of the Square, emphasizing the symmetrical composition.

Stadiou Street is one of the principal roads of the first Town Plan by Kleanthis – Schaubert, the one side of the triangle, connecting the Palaces' Square (Omonia) with the Stadium.

Since the beginning Stadiou Street had a multiple role as it included significant educational buildings, (Arsakio), the first Parliament, commercial uses, and the Royal Stables.

As the city developed Stadiou Street acquired hotels, banks, commercial and spectacles' buildings.

Today it has a changing character, according to position, as it connects the cosmopolitan and touristic Syntagma with popular and commercial Omonia, passing by Klafthmonos Square with the financial institutions.

The other two streets, parallels to Ermou, connect Syntagma with the old city and its traditional commercial area and also with Public Services (Ministries) and the Cathedral.

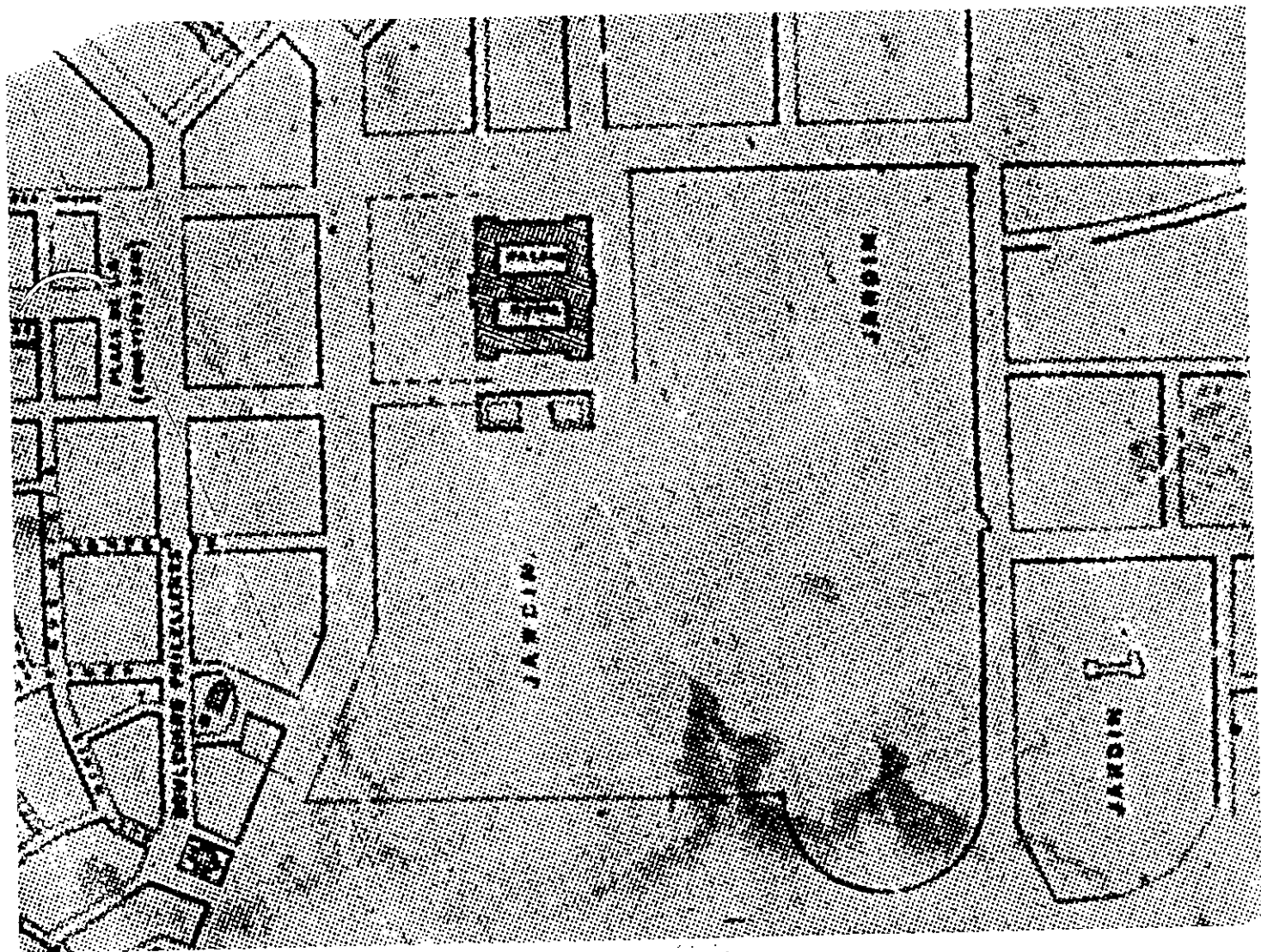
Vassileos Georgiou and Othonos are the two streets at the two sides of lower square devoted to tourism, as having luxurious hotels, airlines' offices and office buildings.

4.1.1.3. Functions

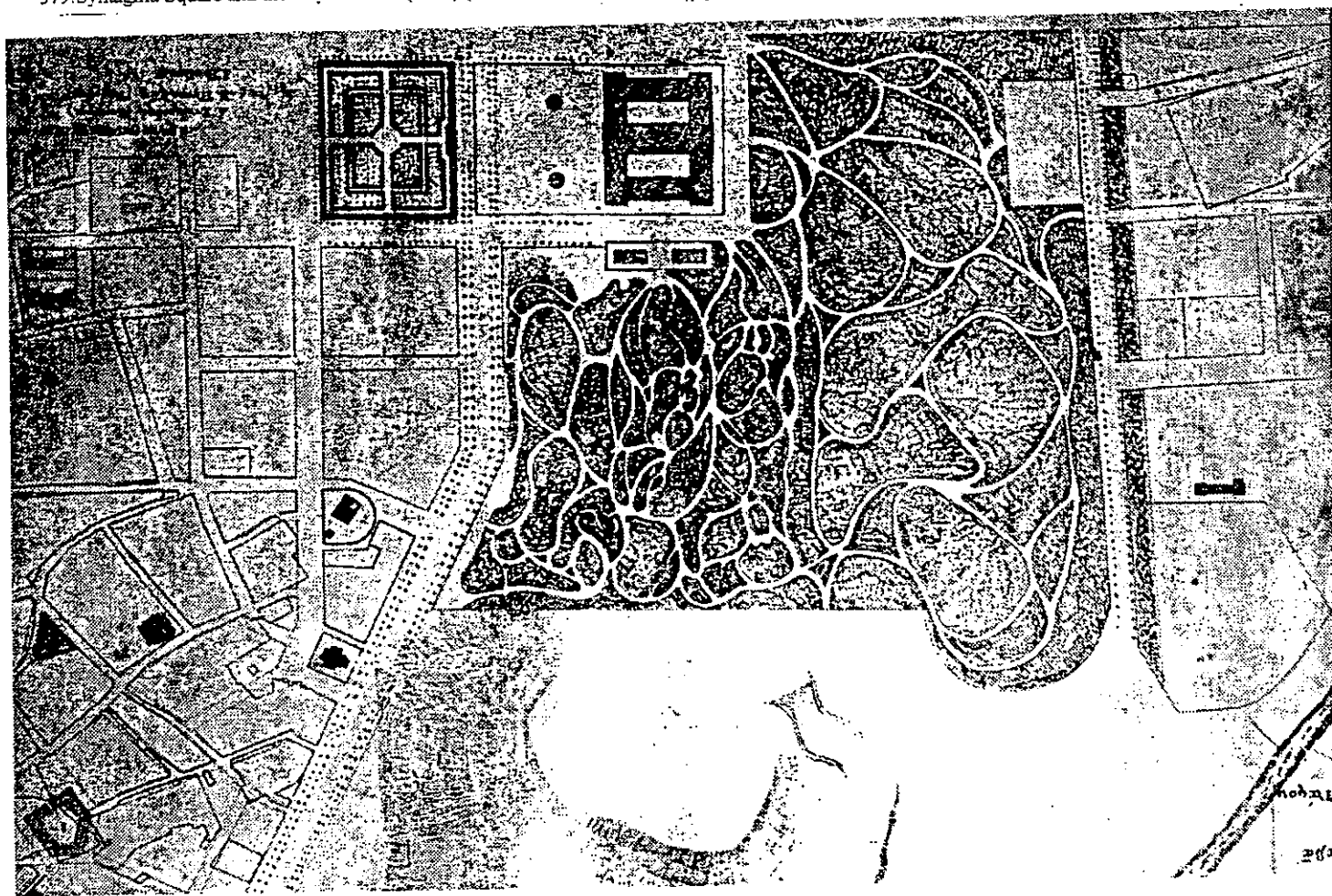
The area in the vicinity of the Square has been developed in a significant Public Administration Center, as three Ministry buildings are very close, and one of them is on the Square's perimeter.

On the Square's perimeter there are also luxurious hotels, modern office buildings and amusement centers.

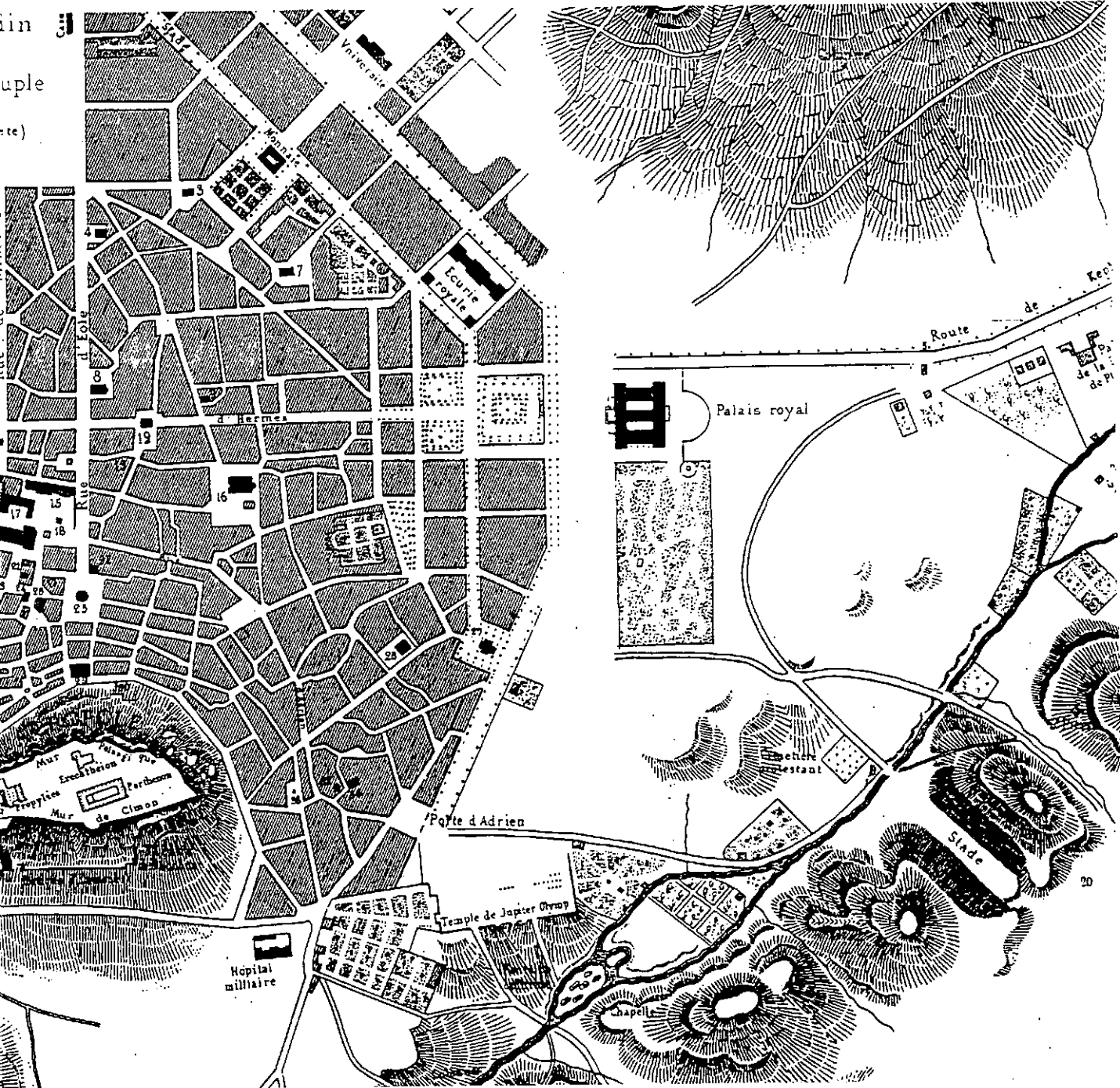
The central part of the Square is used mostly for outdoor café's functions, as an extension of the areas of café's and pastry shops as the dense plantation provides shade to their clients.

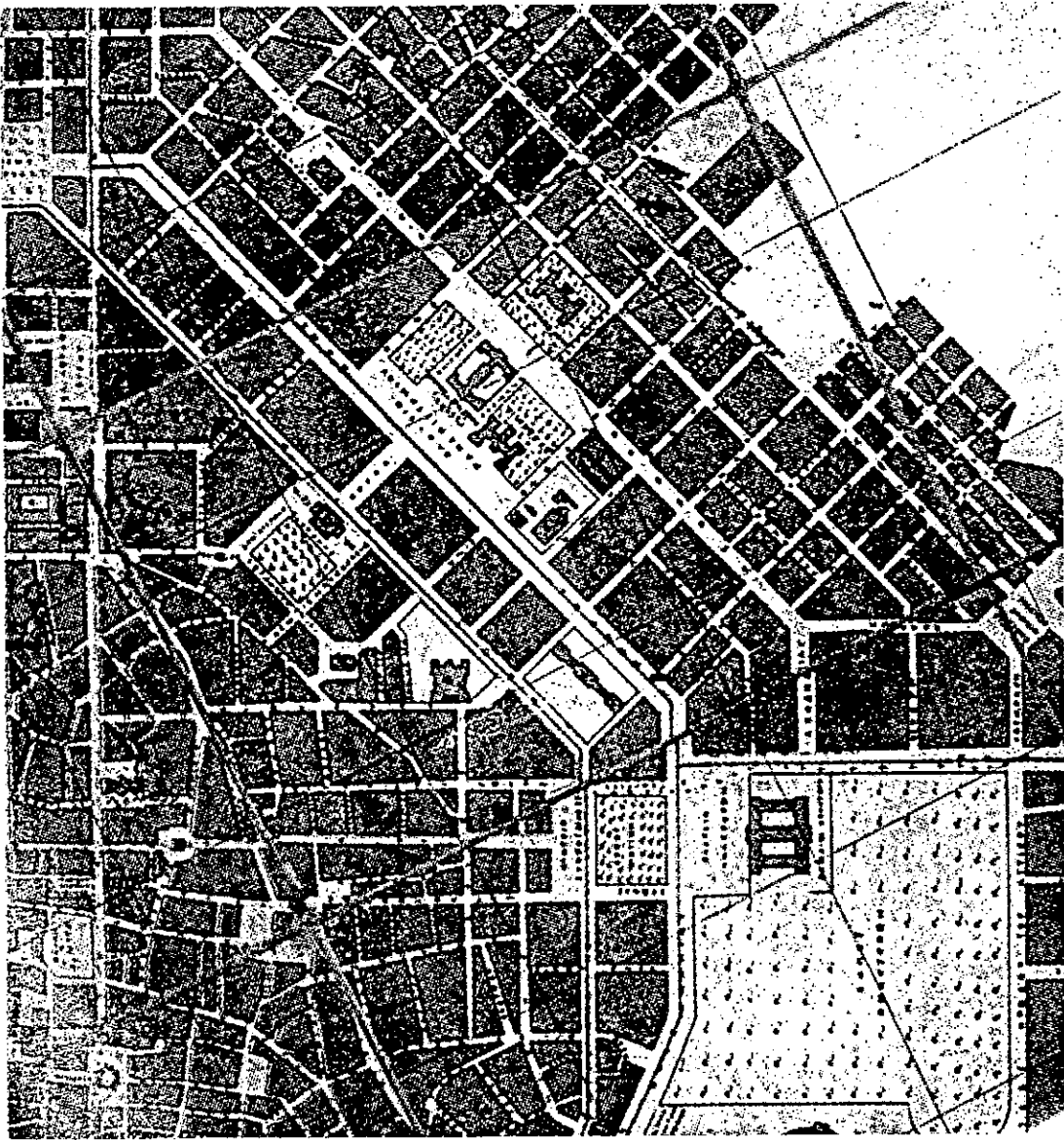


379. Syntagma Square and the Royal Palace (1876) (source: Biris 1996)

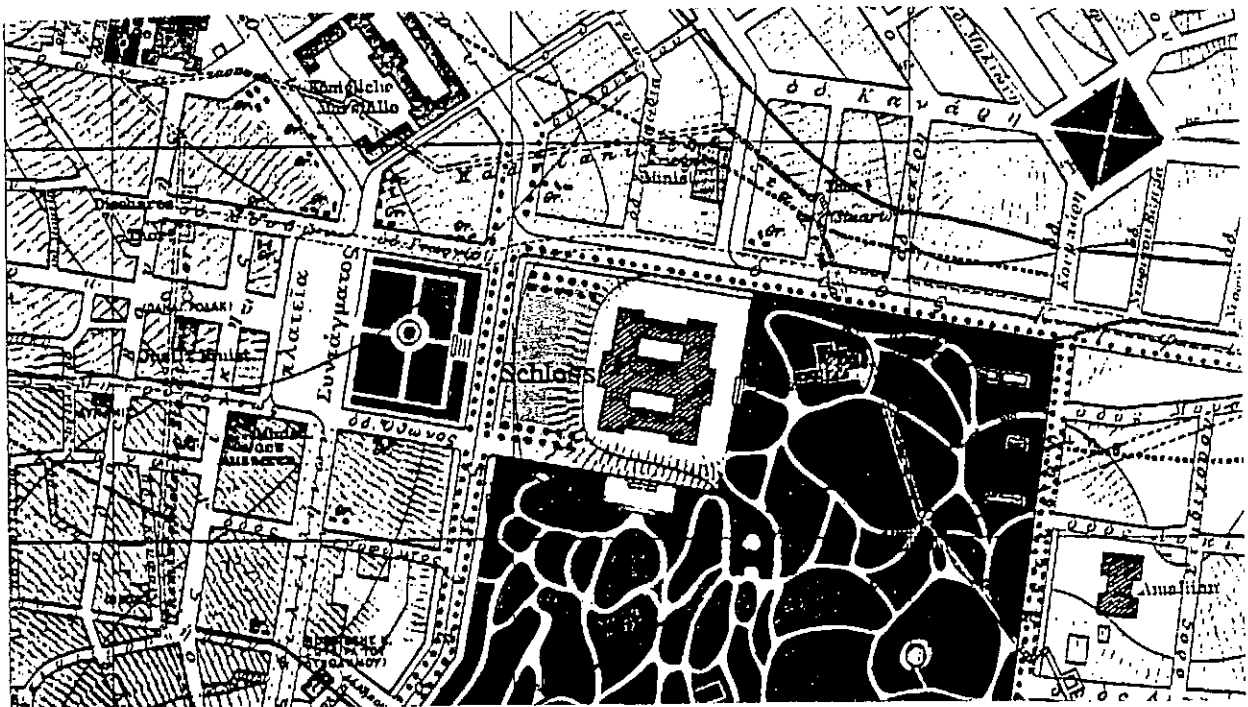


380. Syntagma Square and the Royal Palace (1860) (source: Biris 1996)





382.Syntagma Square as a garden in a map of 1885 (source: Biris 1996)



383. Old Map of Athens showing the Royal Palace, Syntagma Square and the Royal Garden (1850) (source: Papageorgiou – Venetas 2000)

People are sitting on benches, in conversation over their coffees, watching, or absorbed in their newspapers.

The traffic on all sides is overwhelming, but within the Square the sound of the fountain somehow softens the noise of the cars.

4.1.1.4. Traffic

By 1978, the trend of employment centralization created large concentrations of economic activity in the city of Athens.

The central business district of modern Athens, had always two poles, Syntagma and Omonia Square, which tend to reflect the socio-economic status of the city, in spatial terms.

Syntagma Square being on the east part of Athens, concentrates offices and Public Services, as well as commerce, addressed to middle and upper income consumers.

Syntagma Square, being the heart of present-day Athens, has the heaviest traffic of almost any place in the city.

During the past two decades, intense urban growth in Athens has been accompanied by a rapid rise in road traffic.

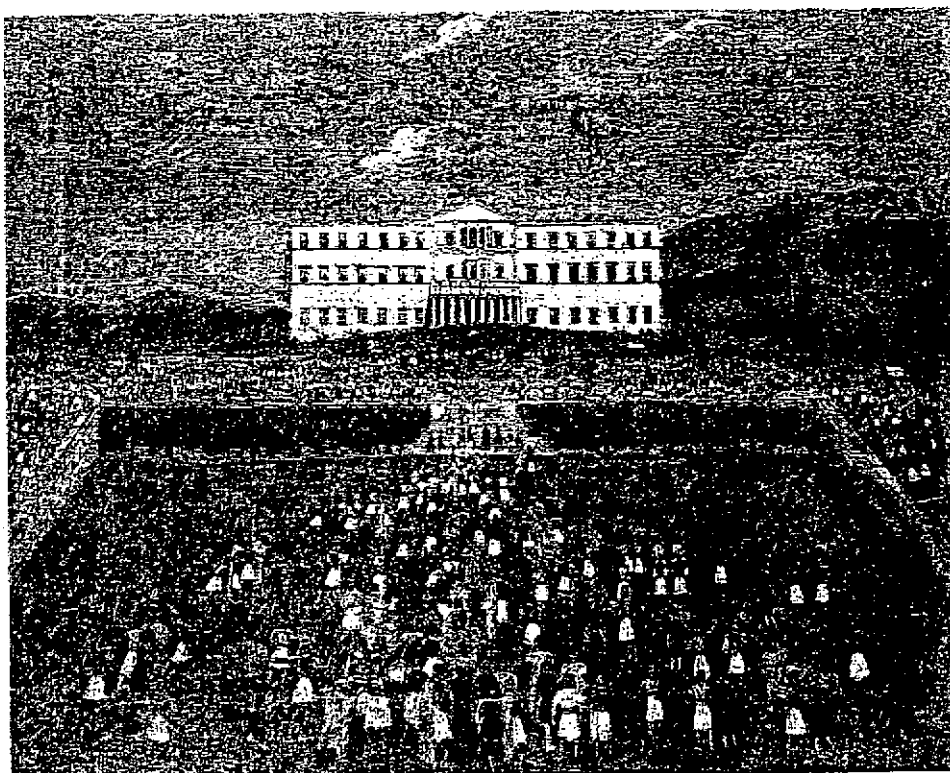
As Athens becomes wealthier, the amount of private car ownership will continue to rise.

Pollutants from the increasing number of automobiles and other sources have multiplied and their effects on people and their enjoyment of public space have been aggravated by climate and topography.

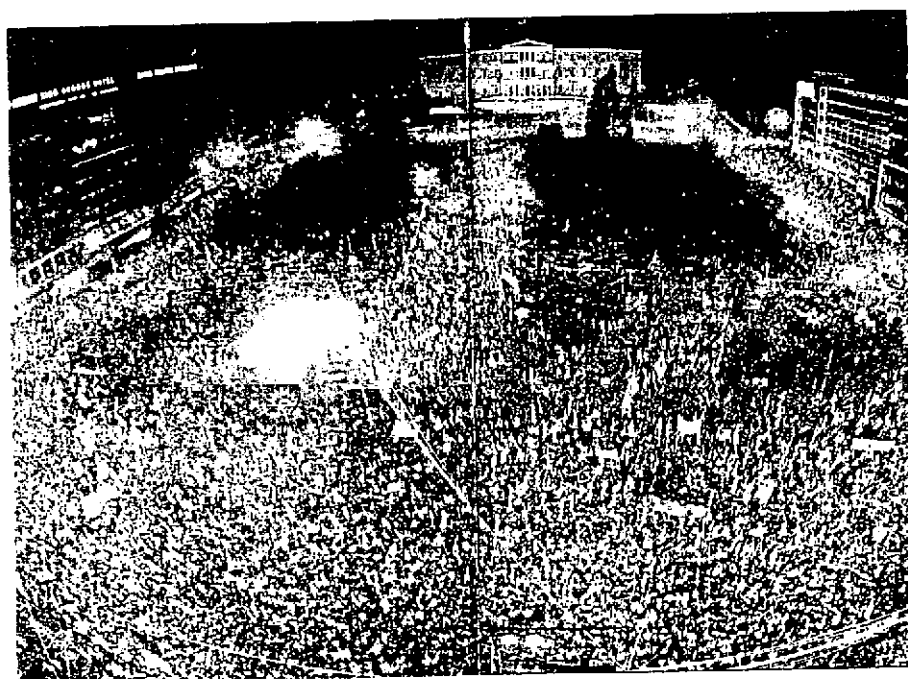
The ongoing efforts to alleviate traffic congestion through infrastructural modification has been ineffective, because it fails to recognize that the evolving social and commercial functions must be taken into account and integrated into the solutions.

Since 1998, the streets of the Commercial Triangle were declared as pedestrian – only zones.

The lack of vehicles on a predominantly commercial street such as Ermou, makes a big difference in the quality of place, and this affects also the quality of public life in Syntagma Square.



384. The revolution of 3rd September 1843 (F. Hachenwill, 1843, source Ministry of Culture, National Gallery 2000)



385. Syntagma Square during the pre-election rally by PASOK in 1981 (source: Kathimerini)

4.1.1.5. Pedestrian circulation and Sidewalks

The western edge of the Square has the most congested sidewalks, with wide arcades and congested pedestrian nodes at the intersections of Mitropoleos, (leading to Cathedral and Monastiraki), Ermou (the most commercial street of downtown), and Stadiou Street (commercial street, with banks, leading to Omonia Square).

A series of bus stop shelters and newspaper kiosks define the edge of the sidewalk.

Eating areas of the restaurants and the cafés are located behind the kiosks, in front of the arcade.

There is a confusion or lack of order in the disposition of these elements and the cafés' areas, which are connected with temporary awnings or umbrellas and are separated with a series of makeshift barriers.

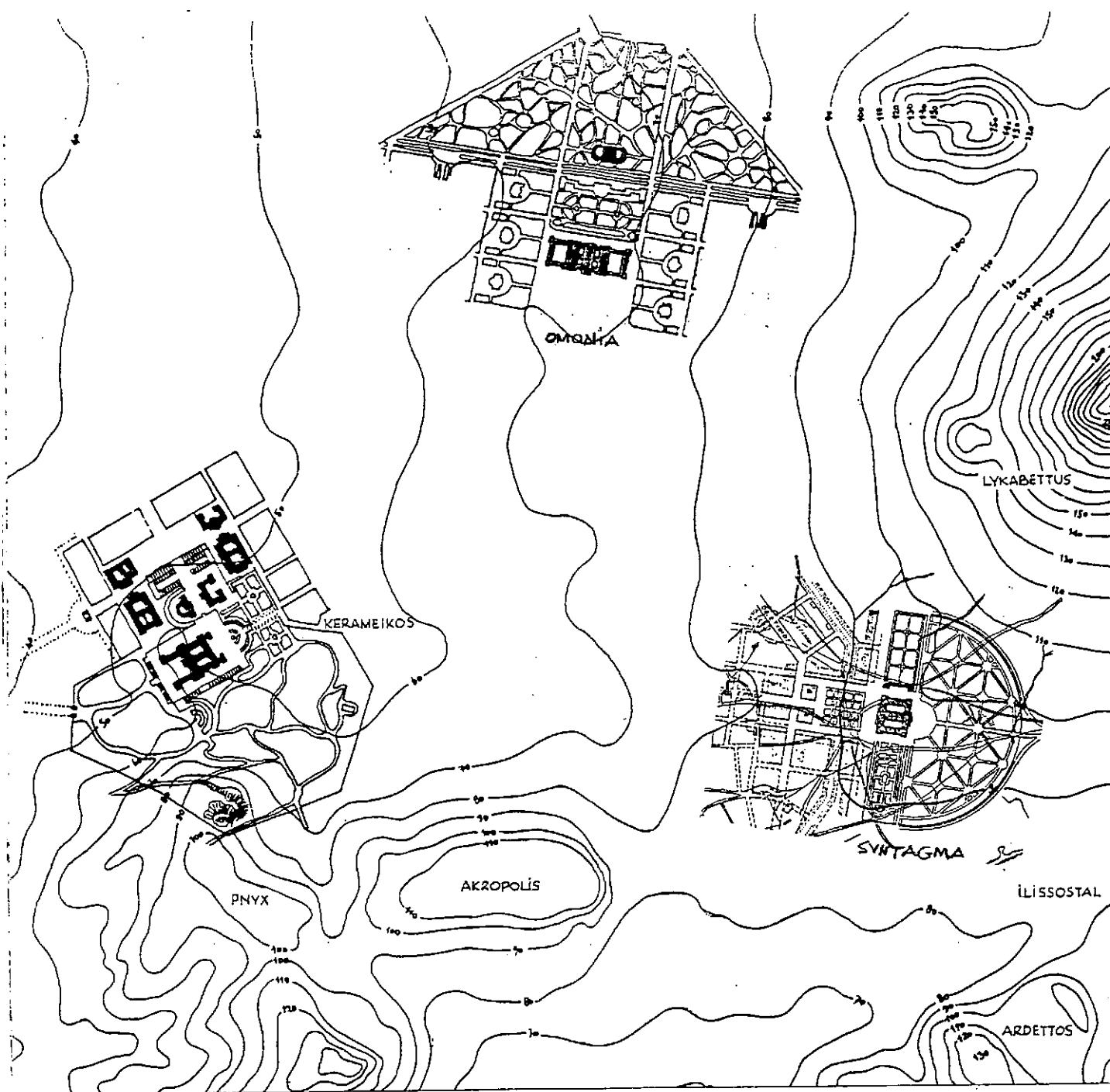
The most used east-west pedestrian lying across the base of the lower square, continues the alignment of the northern arcade and sidewalk of Stadiou Street which bends at the square's perimeter, and continues across the lower square along an expansive sidewalk intended only for passage

The sidewalk along Amalias Street defines the uppermost edge overlooking the lower part of the square.

Because of the heavy car circulation, pedestrian movement becomes difficult and unpleasant.

It seems that traffic around Syntagma Square at all hours is debilitating.

Automobiles park on the sidewalks in and around the Square, sometimes even on the Square itself.



386. The three alternatives for the position of the Royal Palace: Omonia, Syntagma, Kerameikos (source: Papageorgiou – Venetis 1999)

4.1.2. Semantic dimension

4.1.2.1. Significance and meaning to the city of Athens

During the ancient times, the area of today's Syntagma Square was important.

Being out of the city's walls, this area included a number of cemeteries, along the road leading to Messogia, the eastern region of Attica. In this area there were many workshops, warehouses and Roman Baths, which surfaced during the recent excavations for the Metro constructions.

For the first time, a square was designed at the end of Ermou Street in the Town Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert in 1833. It was a circular square, a junction in star-shaped street layout, where the "Cultural Center" of the city was scheduled.

The Cathedral, Academy and Library were some of the buildings proposed in its vicinity in order to acquire a cultural character.

In the first Town Plan, this Square was referred as Muses' Square and later on as Musses' Garden. This was due to the fact that an ancient marble landmark of the 3rd century BC was found in this place with the inscription "Landmark of Musses' Garden" and today is still standing near the north retaining wall.

The circular shape, although under the name "Plato's Square" was kept in Klenzes's plan of 1834.

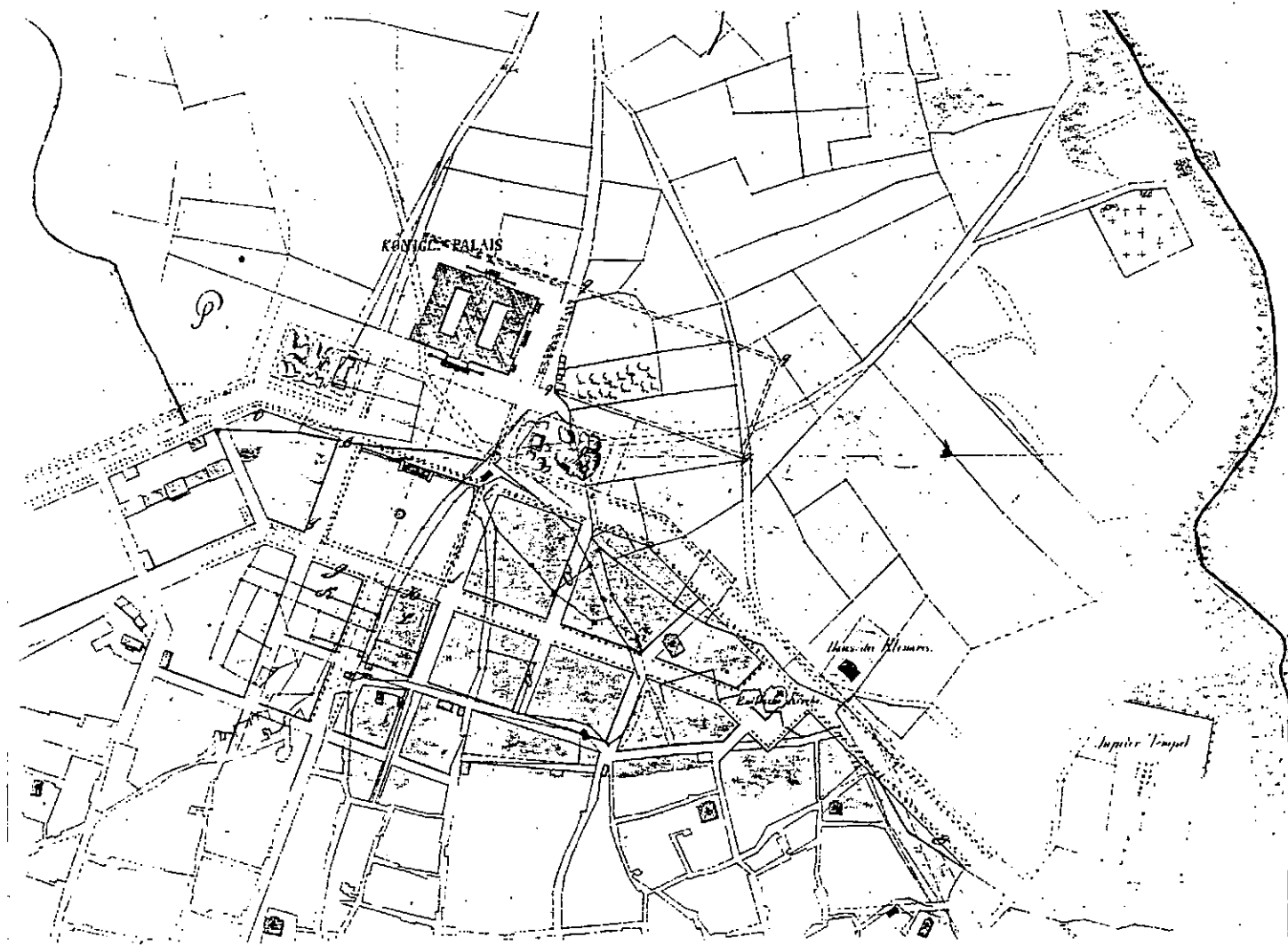
According to research on documents of the Municipal Property Service, of the Municipality of Athens, it is resulted that the area was expropriated from landowners by the Municipality of Athens in 1835.

A decisive step in the history of the Square, which influenced its character, was the installation of the royal residence in this specific place, according to Gartner's proposal, contrary to Kleanthis – Schaubert plan, which proposed it in the position of Omonia Square.

This position had the advantage of a healthy microclimate and provided panoramic views to the Acropolis, Olympian Zeus Temple and the Saronic Gulf. The Palace occupied the east side of the square.

Fr. Von Gartner, being aware of the State's limited funds, designed the Palace as a very simple neoclassical structure.

The Palace was completed in 1846 and since then it has a commanding presence, presiding impressively over Syntagma Square.



387. A drawing showing the Royal Palace, Syntagma Square and the various land properties in the area. The Royal Garden is not existing yet. (Lieutenant Hoch, 1843, source: Papageorgiou – Venetas 1999)



388. Drawing for the formation of Syntagma Square with Dimitriou's house at left (Th. Hansen 1842, source: Biris 1996)

The land to the south of the Palace was planned as site for the Royal Garden, which began by Queen Amalia in 1847. The main façade of the Palace was to the west, towards the square.

In front of the Palace, the sloping large public space, became a ceremonial forecourt for gatherings, associated with official royal events.

At first, the Palace was relatively isolated for many years and outside the city core, which was then around Monastiraki and Eolou area.

The Square acquired its rectangular shape during the works for the Palace's foundations which started in 1836, when it was renamed to Palace's Square.

In 1837, the German Architect lieutenant F. Hoch undertook the modification of the plan concerning the space in front of the Palace.

He created Amalias avenue, and separated the Square in two parts: the ground rise in front of the Palace which was planted as a garden and the main space of the Square, which was on the lower level.

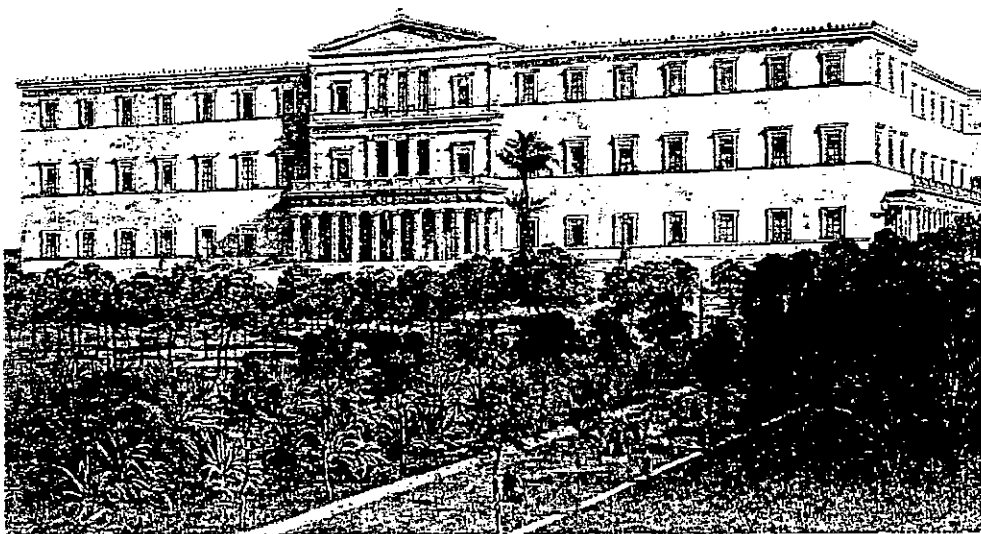
With a Royal Decree, special Building Regulations were imposed, concerning the buildings surrounding the Square, in order not to antagonize the splendour of the Palace. Besides, the approval of the plans of these houses by King Otto was obligatory.

In a perspective drawing by Th. Hansen, published in *Allgemeine Bauzeitung* in 1846, the shape of the Square was designated with retaining walls, aiming to give shape to the lower part of it, because of the sloppy ground and a large staircase connecting the two parts.

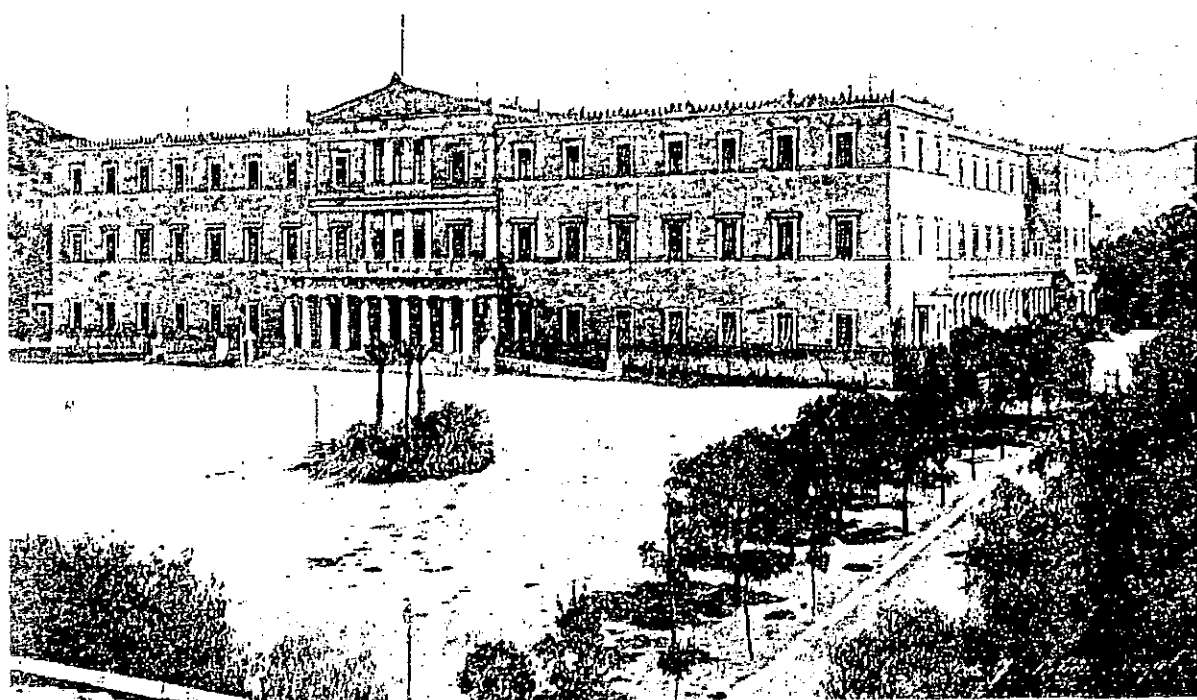
On the same perspective drawing, the Dimitriou mansion, at the corner of Panepistimiou and King George streets is shown, as well as, a circular fountain in the center of the Square.

King Otto wished the other houses of the Square to follow the style of Dimitriou mansion. Actually, he found this house beautiful, that he requested to use it as a guesthouse for his visitors.

In 1843, Palace's Square was connected to a historical event: the bloodless revolt on 3rd September under Colonel D. Kallergis, demanding the assignment of Constitution. People gathered in front of the Palace, until Otto promised to cede the Constitution. Since then, the Square was renamed to Constitution (Syntagma) Square.



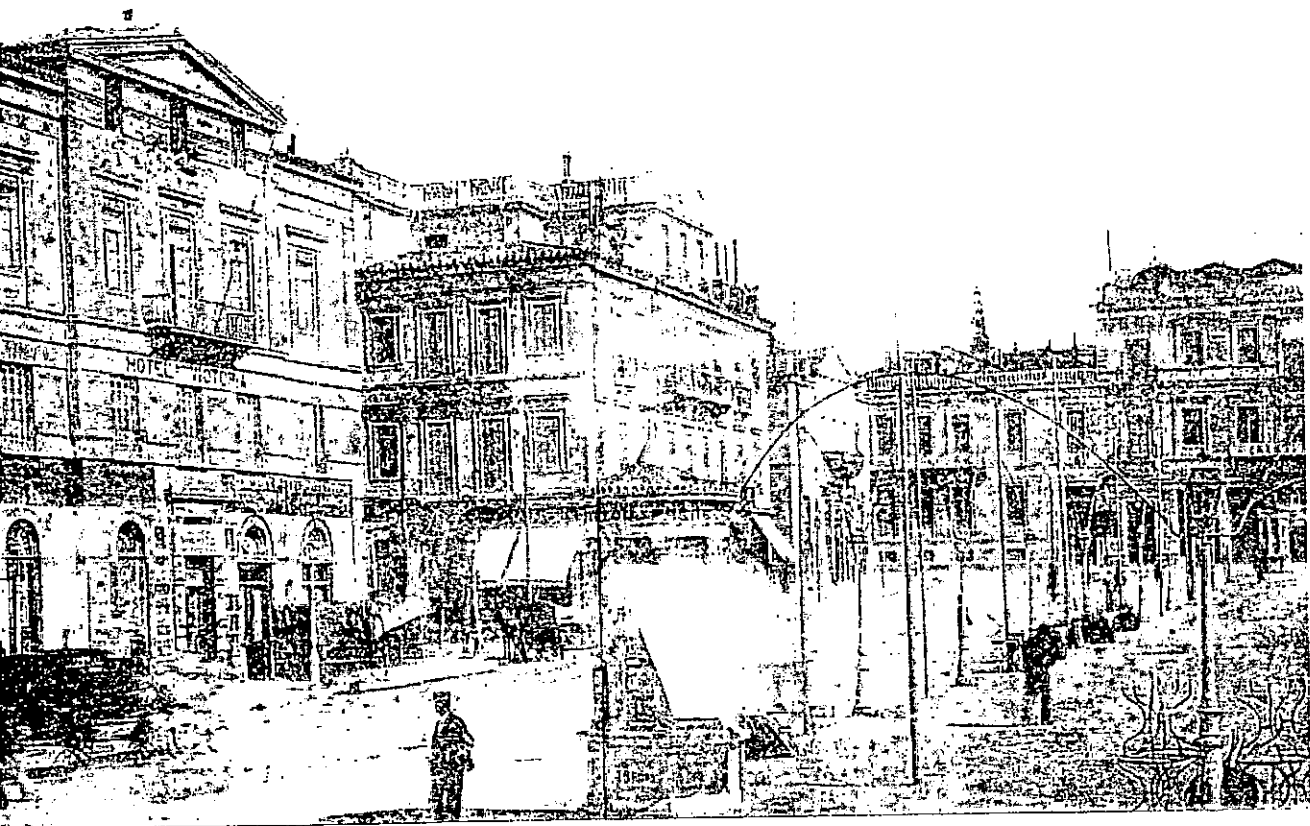
The Royal Palace and its front court, shaped as garden



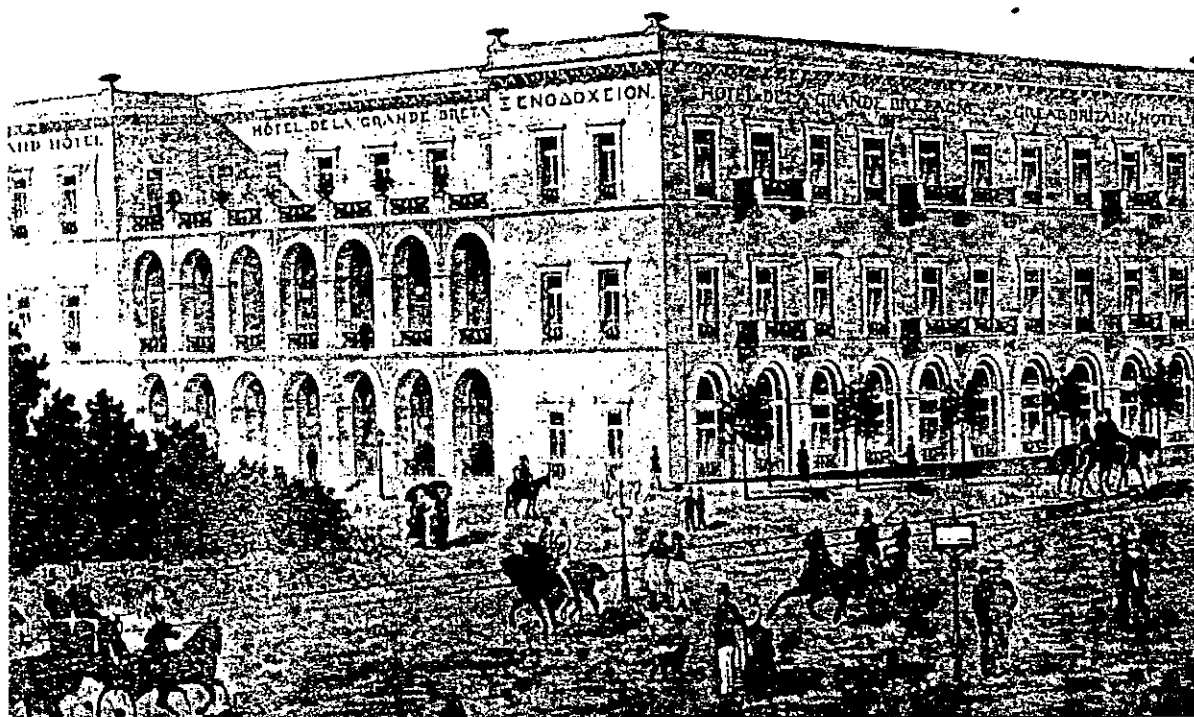
The Royal Palace and the upper part of Syntagma Square in 1890



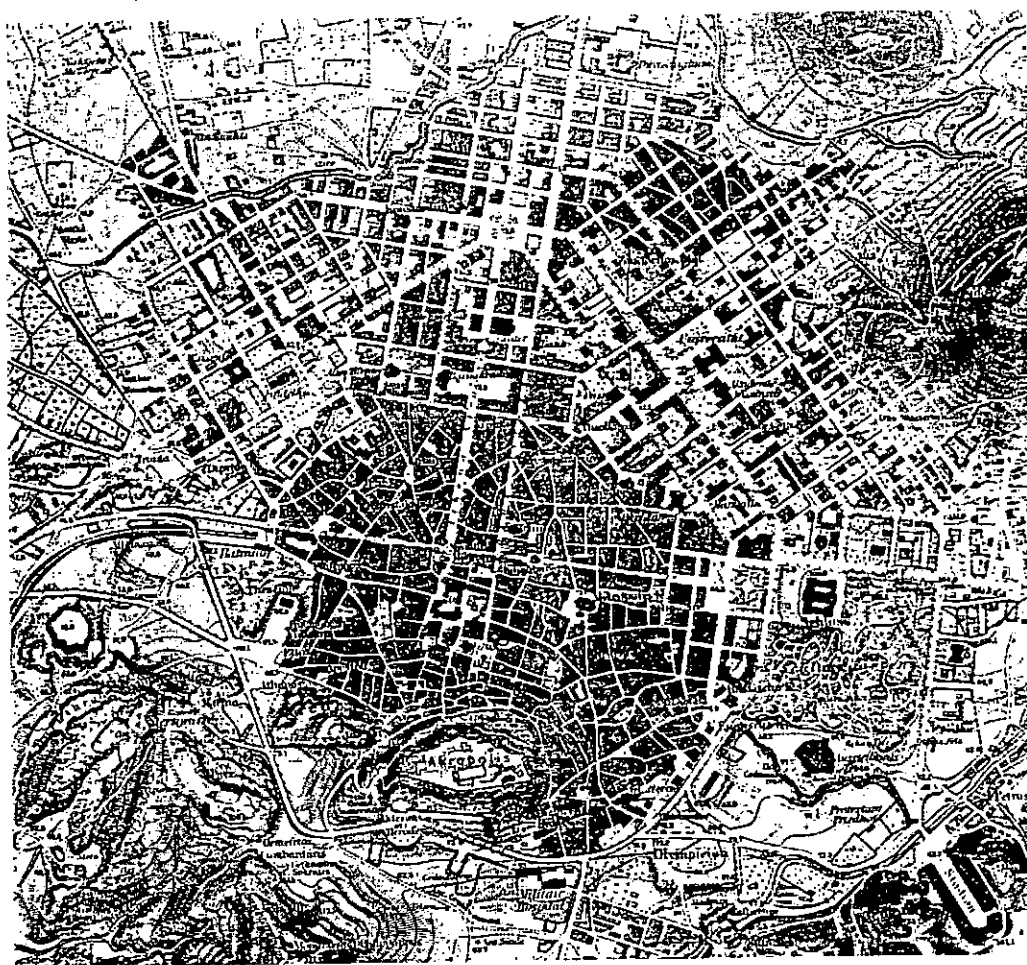
389.Syntagma Square, view towards Philhellene street (1862) (source: author's collection)



390.Syntagma Square in 1870 (source: Souvenir from Athens)



391. Engraving showing "Grande Bretagne" Hotel and part of Syntagma Square with its social life (1870) (source: Kathimerini)



392. Athens map (Kaupert 1875, source: Biris 1996)

In 1856, Dimitriou residence was converted into the French Archaeological School. By this time, villas lined the bottom edge of the Square and were beginning to be built on either side.

At the end of 19th century, a number of residences surrounding Syntagma Square had been converted into hotels to house the many tourists coming to visit Athens' antiquities.

In 1873, French Archaeological School became Grande Bretagne Hotel, which for many years was considered as the finest hotel in Athens.

This new function established Syntagma Square as the reception place to Athens and as the starting point to the many new and old cultural facilities of the city.

Lycabettus Hill's and Acropolis' presence were impressive, due to Square's proximity to them.

At the beginning, Lycabettus Hill was bare and only in 1881 was reforested.

Tram system was installed in 1885, connecting lower part of the Square with the Port of Piraeus.

A bandstand was built in the lower area of the Square to house musical events.

During the first Olympic Games in 1896, Syntagma Square played a prime role in receiving and hosting tourists, as being an Open Public Space with more European Character and also being close to the Panathenian Stadium.

The lower part of the Square was separated into two different areas: on the edge towards Ermou Street, a large area remained clear of vegetation, separated from the unpaved roads by a single row of streetlights and a narrow sidewalk.

This area had functioned as a plaza, as well as a pedestrian passage from Stadiou to Philellene Street, bending around the lower edge.

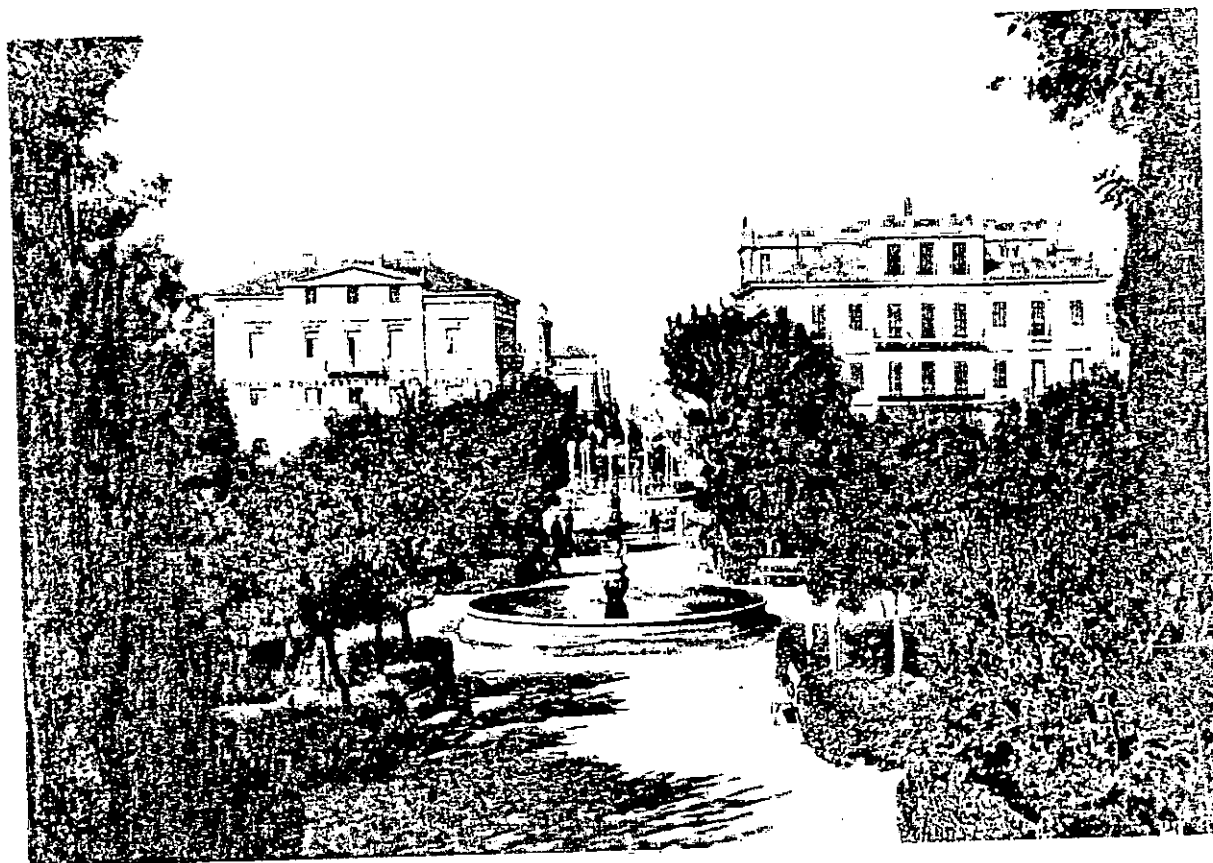
The other area of the Square, due to its lush planting of trees, was more intimate.

Paths of six meters wide were laid out in a cross, having at its center a circle with a fountain in the middle.

Benches were positioned on the edges of the circle under the trees' shade.

The lower part of the Square was a public space, for strolling and sitting, more informal than the ceremonial forecourt.

This part was a favored place of Athenians, and obviously had satisfied their aspiration for public life.



393. Syntagma Square with its garden and fountain at the end of 19th century (source: author's collection)



394. Syntagma Square in 1870 with cafés' tables on the lower part (source: Souvenir from Athens)

The whole character and function satisfied the Greek need for the country to join what they considered civilized European culture, because of this public focus.

The gradual development of the Royal Garden and Zappion area, positively affected the quality of environmental, in a city with few green areas.

The first planting of the Square took place following the completion of the Palace, whilst in 1877 the space was lit with oil lamps and in 1889 with electricity, on the occasion of the marriage of the Crown Prince Constantine.

The horse-drawn tram, which was passing through Syntagma Square connected Athens with Piraeus Port but its rails were dismantled in 1901, and trees were planted in their place.

The lower piazza was fine graveled until the early '60s, when it was transformed into the bustling café's area.

On the upper part, in 1930, the Unknown Soldier Monument was constructed. From then onwards, it has been the central ceremonial forecourt and people use to gather to watch the hourly changing of the guards.

The formality of this upper area stands in contrast to the lower area across the street.

Since 1931, the Royal Palace was converted into Parliament building.

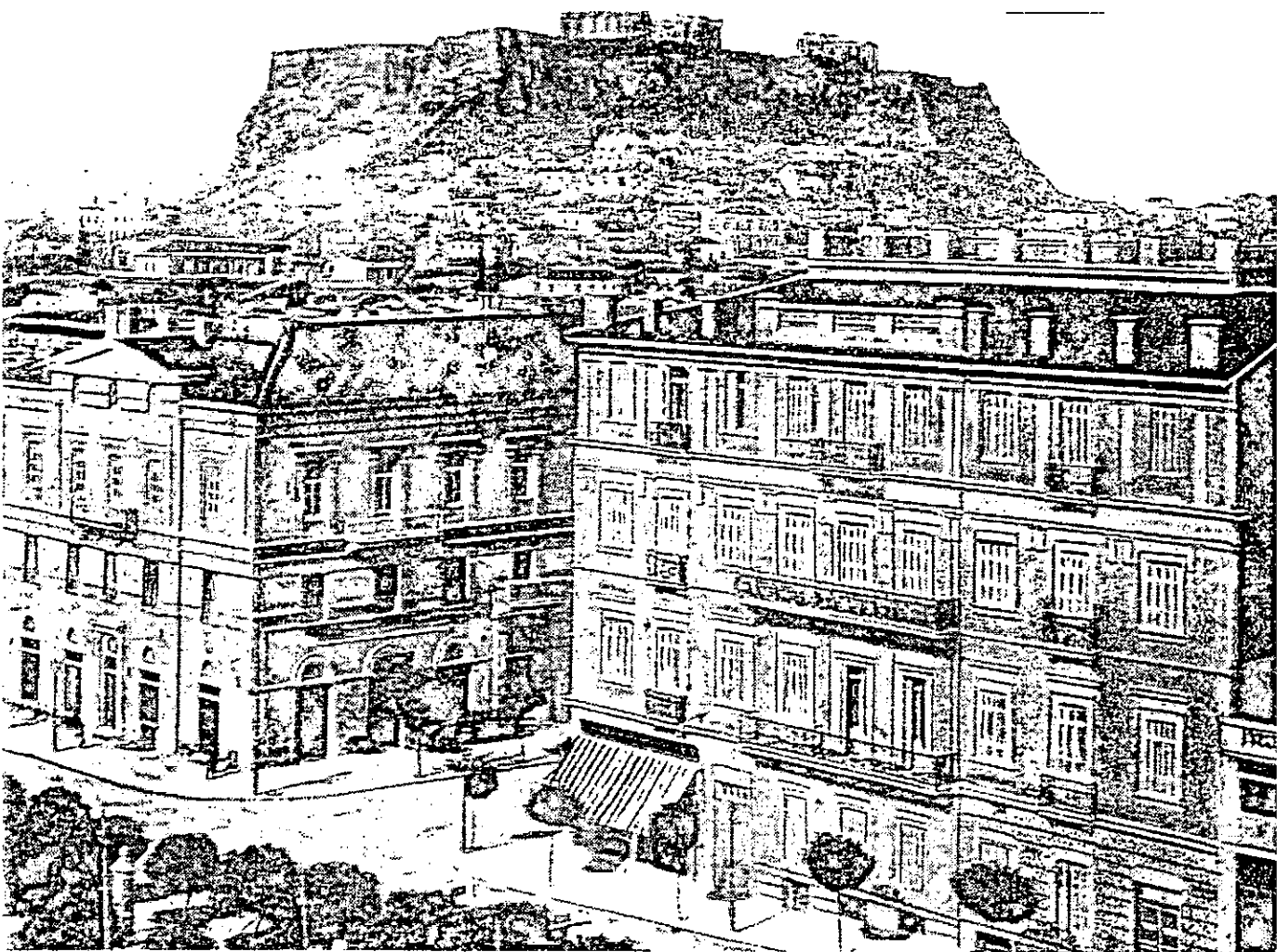
At the same time, the sloping upper Royal ceremonial space was significantly lowered, losing its plantation, in order to create a horizontal forecourt, bounded on three sides by retaining walls, made of white stone, on which, according to the ancient custom of hanging the victor's shield in the temple, bronze shields were set flanked by the names of the many victories won by Hellenic armies since National Independence.

Built in the center of the east retaining wall is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, simple and elegant, depicting a dying hoplite.

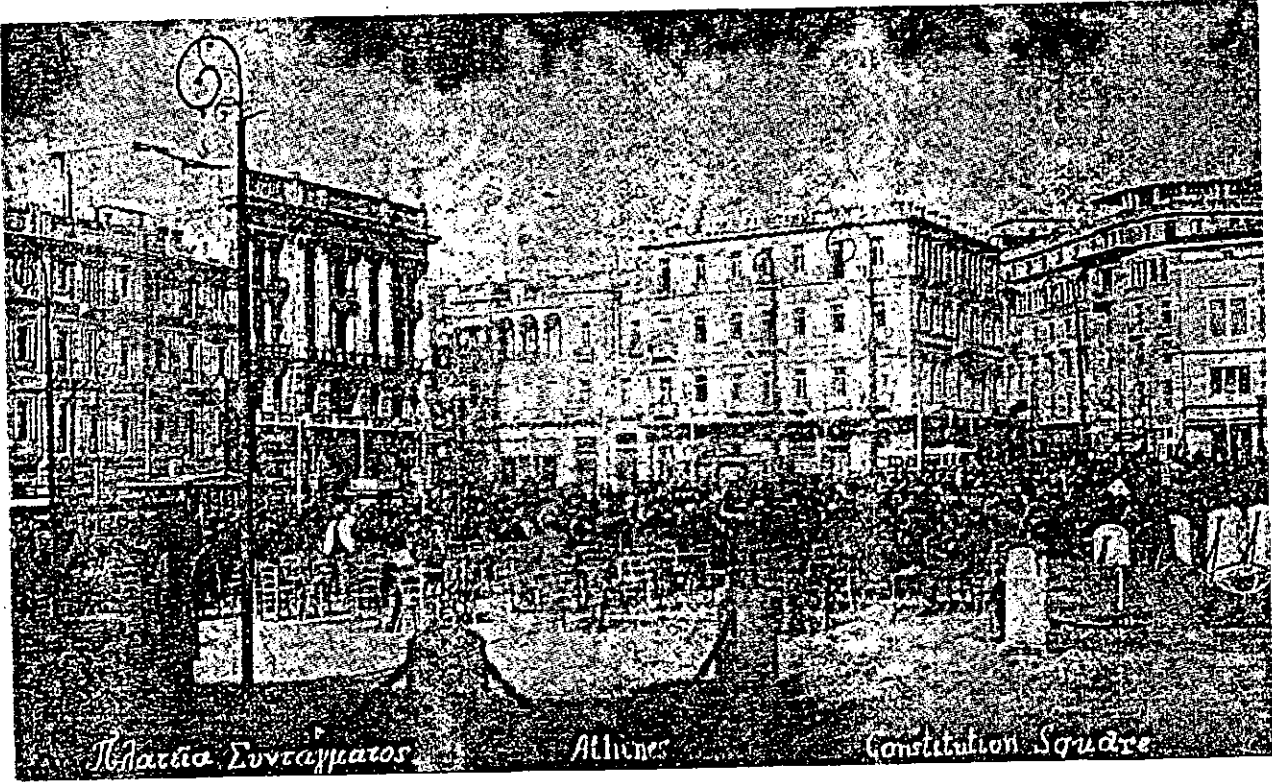
This monument was designed by D. Dimitriadis and Ph. Rok, while the whole architectural space was designed by Em. Lazaridis.

At that time, the flower shops on Vassilisis Sophias, under the slope of the north ramp were created.

During the World War II and the Civil War, many of the neoclassical buildings around the Square and throughout the city, were destroyed, or severely damaged.



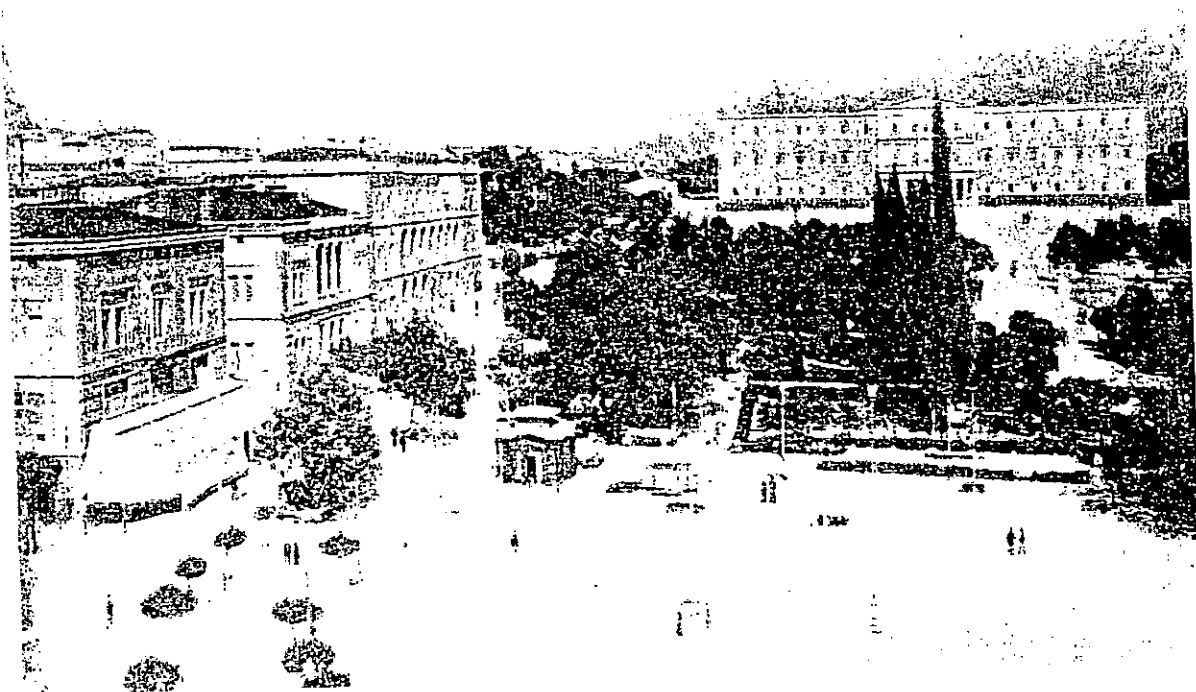
395. New England Hotel with Acropolis at the background in 1910 (source: Kathimerini)



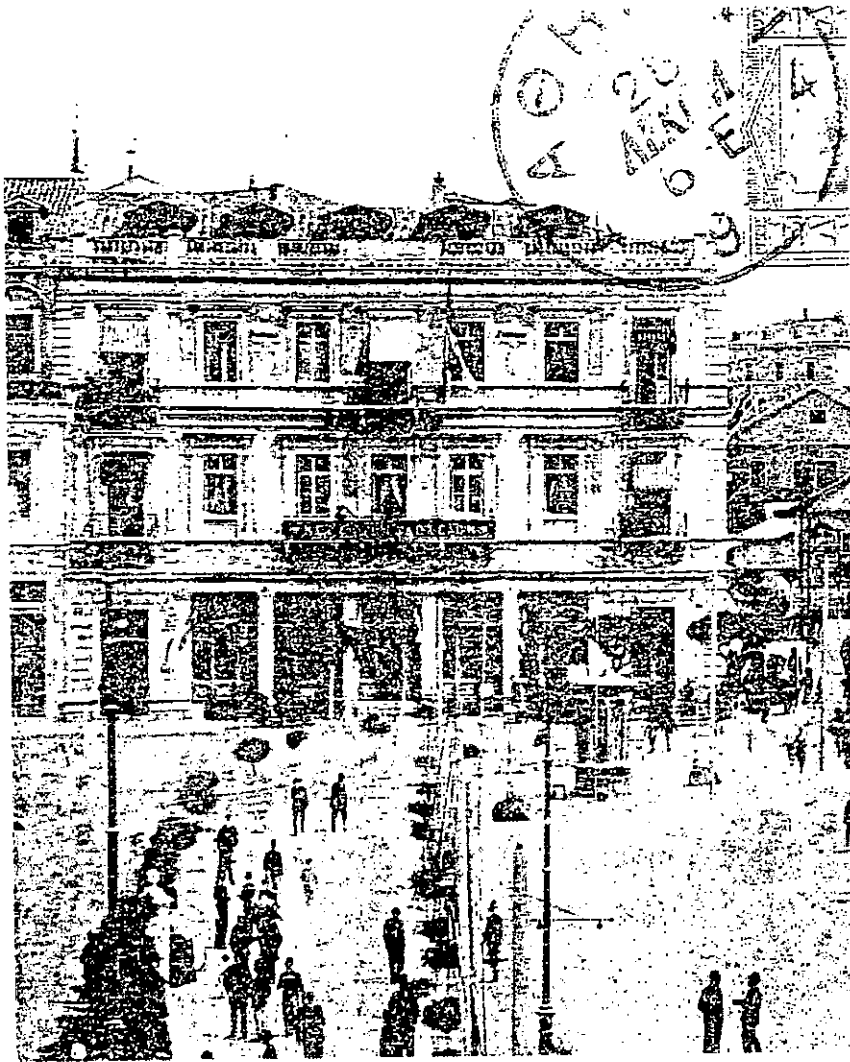
396. Syntagma Square in the '30s (source: author's collection)



397. Dimitriou house converted into "Grand Bretagne" Hotel, in 1870 (source: author's collection)



398. Syntagma Square in 1910 (source: author's collection)



399. Syntagma Square with "Grand Hotel" in 1910 (source: author's collection)



400. Syntagma Square and Philhellene street at the end of 19th century (source:

Souvenir from Athens)

Other buildings faced probable destruction in the 1960s' to make way for seven storey office buildings, particularly at the lower edge of Syntagma Square.

Being close to the Palace, (and since 1935, the Parliament), Syntagma Square was connected with many historical and political events of Modern Greek History.

Besides, since the 19th century it was established a meeting and recreation place of middle and upper social classes as well as foreign travelers who used to visit Athens for its antiquities.

In the surroundings of the Square, especially on the north and western side, there were some of the best hotels of the city, as well as famous café's such as Zavoritis', Zacharatou and Giannakis, which became "political centers" and important meeting places.

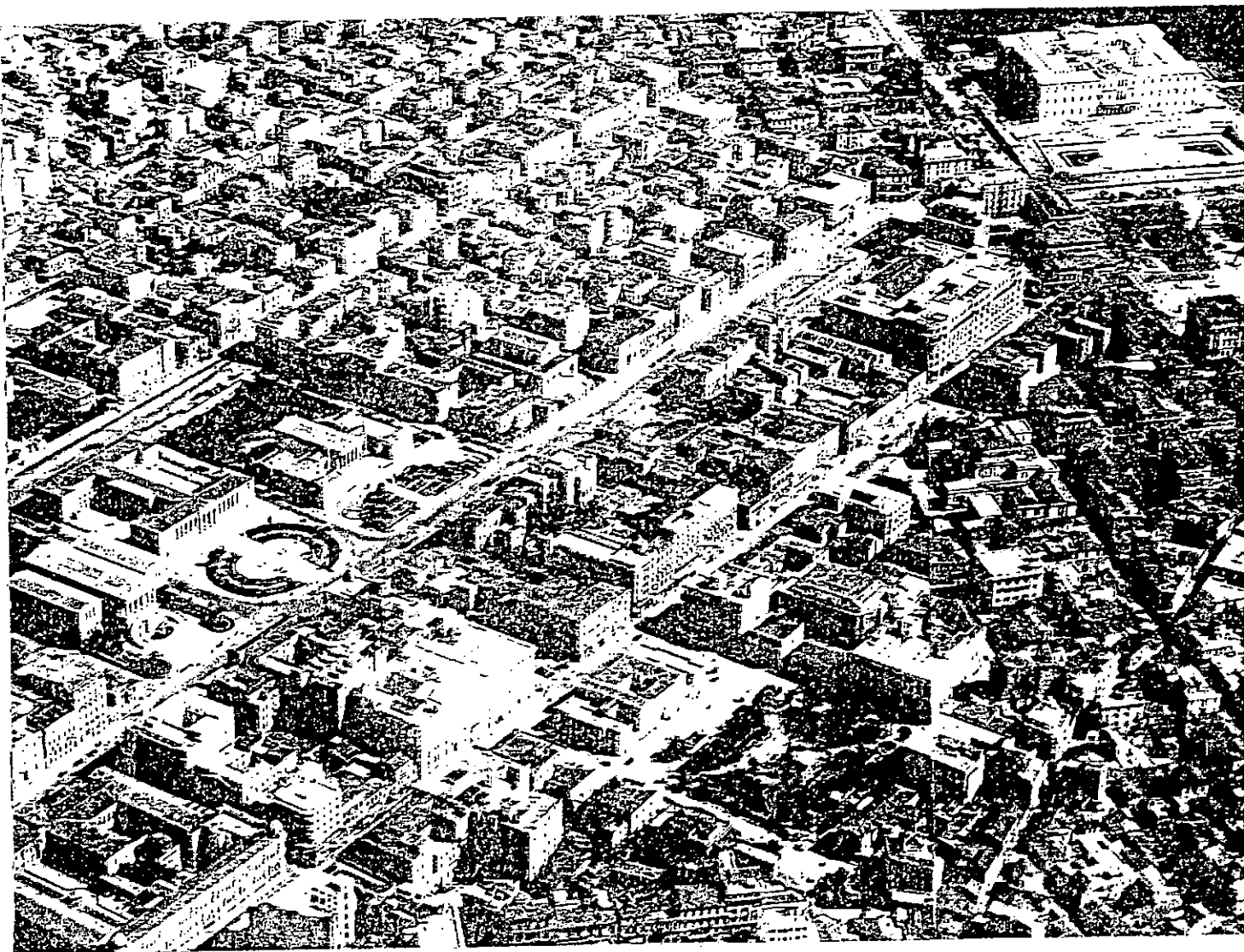
Syntagma Square used to be the scene of some of the greater and tense political demonstrations during various unsettled periods of the political history of the country, until the early '80s.

Because of its centrality and connection to the primary social and cultural institutions of the city, Syntagma Square continues to be at the hub of many of the transformations taking place in Athens.

During the recent Metro constructions many artifacts from the classical antiquity were found, such as sarcophagi, a copper foundry, and Roman Baths.

However, the construction continued, without any public interest in the discoveries.

Recently, for the needs of the Parliament, an underground Car Park was created having access from the south ramp to the National Garden.



401. Aerial photograph of Athens in 1934. Syntagma square is at top right (source: Travlos 1967)

4.1.3. Structure of the Space

4.1.3.1. Topography, Shape

Syntagma Square, is an orthogonal void within the city, consisted of two squares, on different levels, separated by Amalias Avenue.

These two square areas have been carved out of the sloping ground, while the initial slope has been maintained on the streets surrounding the two parts which have been depressed.

The sidewalks along both upper edges of the surrounding streets of Syntagma Square, continue the natural elevation of the terrain and literally embrace three of the four edges of the Square.

The sloping sides emphasize the elevational difference between the flat garden and its environs.

The same happens on the upper part of the Square, as the two surrounding streets and the upper level on which the Parliament Building is based, literally embrace the Unknown Soldier's monumental court.

However, in this place the existing conditions are better, because there is no car circulation on the side roads and the adjacent National Garden is a pleasant and quiet background.

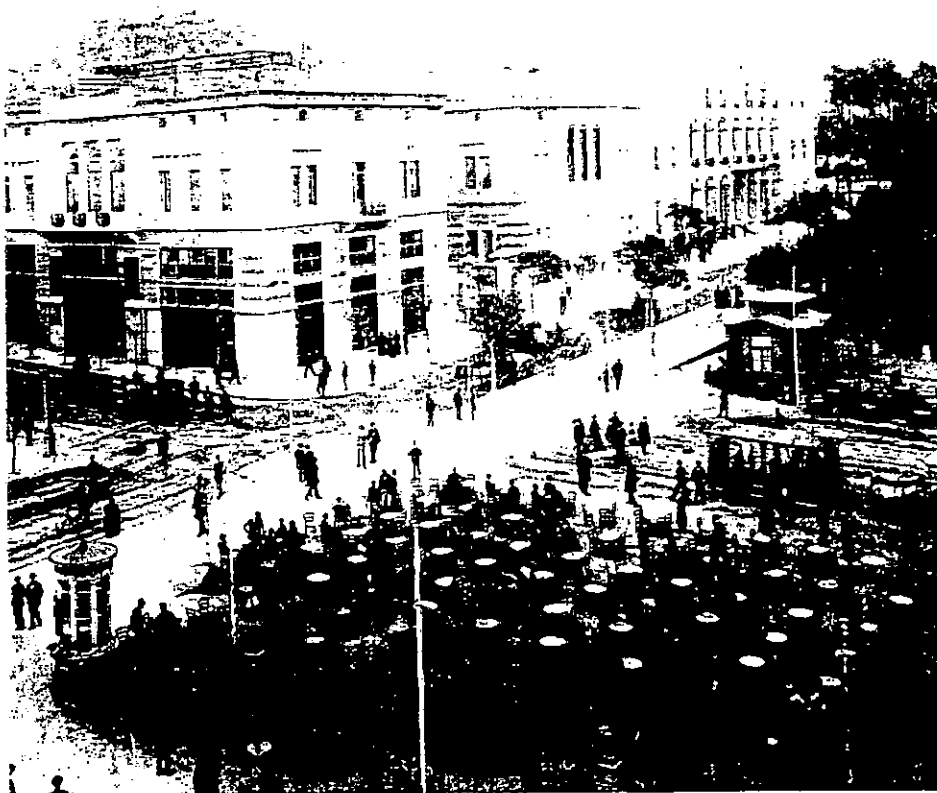
4.1.3.2. Elements, street furniture equipment

4.1.3.2.1. Arcades

Arcade is an element imposed by the Building Regulations in central Athens area formation, during the Post-War period, in order to facilitate pedestrian circulation, as streets proved insufficient for the increased traffic flow.

The arcade is a variation of the dominant building technique of placing part of the ground floor level on pilotis (columns), usually a space of three or four meters wide, along the street. This space becomes a covered arcade protecting pedestrians from car circulation and weather conditions.

The rhythm of these arcades creates a strong street typology in the city center and could be a very interesting element if it would be designed in large entities comprising a number of buildings.



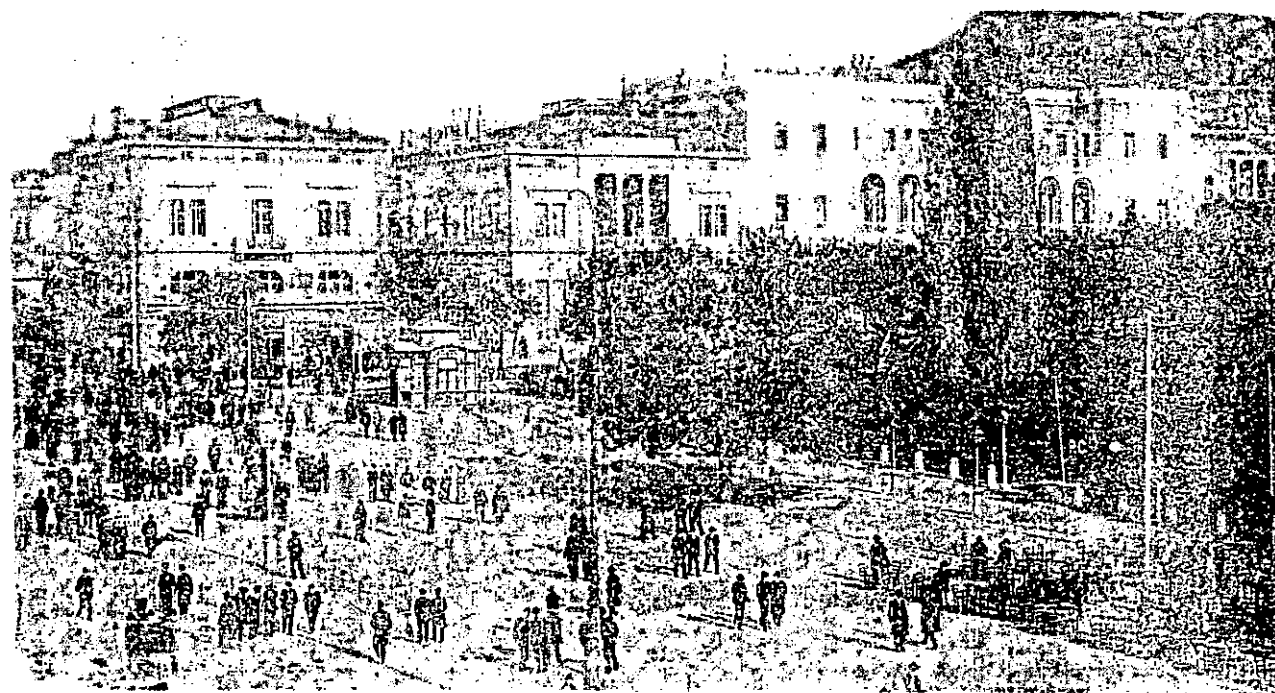
402. Syntagma Square in 1896 (source: author's collection)



403. Syntagma Square in 1910 (source: author's collection)



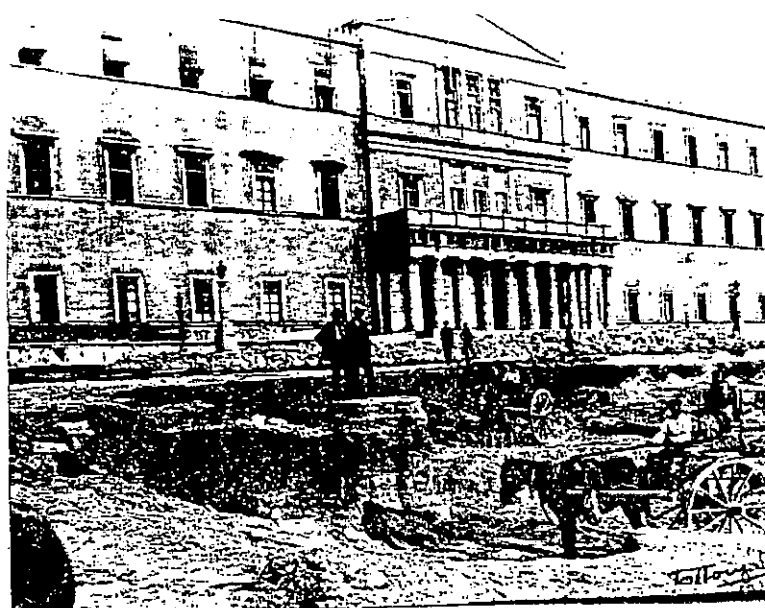
404. Syotagma Square in 1890 (source: National Gallery)



405. Syntagma Square in 1892 (source: National Gallery)



406. The formation of the upper part of Syntagma Square with the Unknown Soldier's Monument (1930) (source: author's collection)



407. Excavation in front of the Royal Palace, (now Parliament) for the formation of Unknown Soldier's Monument (1929) (source: ERT 1992)

As it was not applied initially, but only in cases of building reconstructions, the arcade system in many cases has been discontinuous as for example in Syntagma Square arcades exist only on a portion of the Square, mostly on the west side, adding to the lack of order of square's elements.

4.1.3.2.2. The Cafés'

Cafés' have been an important element of Syntagma Square, since its creation in 1846. In the north and south side of the lower part of the Square, a number of cafés had been created, concentrating the middle and upper social classes and became the centers of social and political conversation and disputes.

In the Post-War era and during the '50s, coffee shops in Syntagma Square continued to be the center of Athens public and social life, with hundreds of tables in their spacious interiors and outside, on the wide pavements and across the street, in the Square itself and they were functioning at all times of the day.

During the '60s, until the dictatorship, these cafés used to be the favoured place of tourists like a reception area for their familiarization with Athens area.

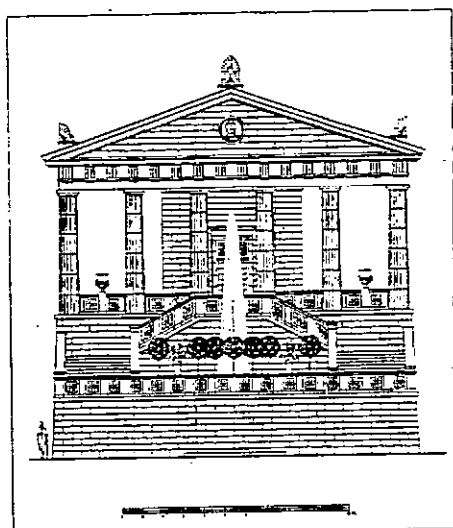
Within the past twenty-five years, the Square was redesigned and the cafés' area was removed from the lower edge of the Square, while smaller sitting areas were created below the trees.

However, in this period, central squares were not the center of Athenian social life any more, as many other social centers were created in the peripheral districts of the city, and new functions emerged.

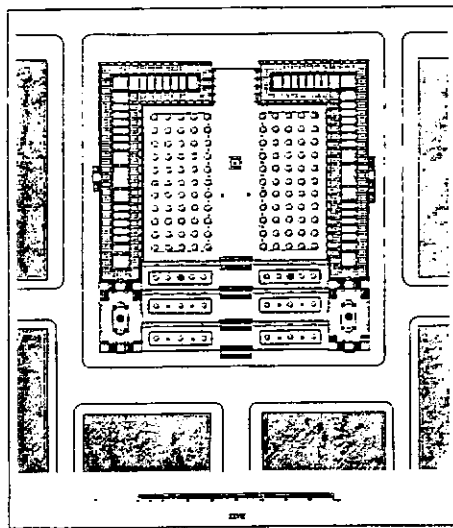
Across the street, three new shops were created on an expanded sidewalk, but the two of them were Mc Donald's' Restaurant and Chicken franchise, which attracted a different custom than before.

Unfortunately, the vitality, which activated the Square during the '50s, is not in existence any more and the civic interaction has been replaced with marble sidewalks and lawn areas.

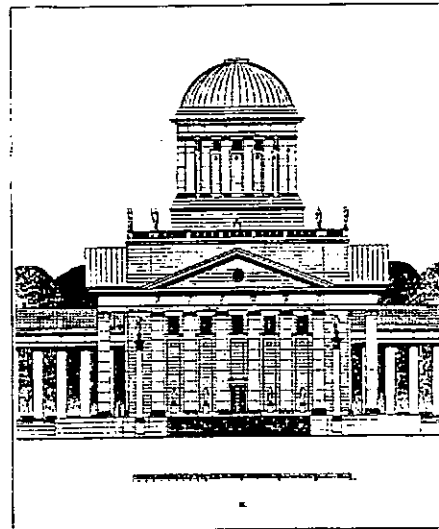
In exchange, Syntagma Square gained a more efficient pedestrian circulation.



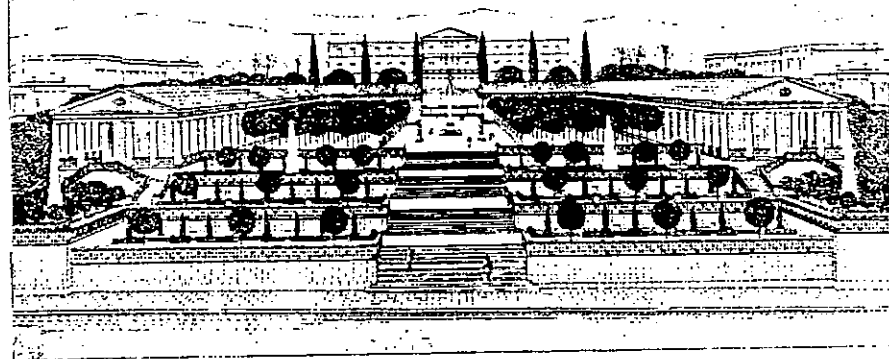
408.



409.



410.



411. L. Hoffmann's proposal for the formation of Syntagma Square and relevant buildings (1910) (source: Design and Art in Greece 1987)

4.1.3.2.3. The Water element

During the ancient times the area of the Square was crossed by Hiridanos River.

In the east side of the Square there was a source which was servicing the travelers, until 1845.

4.1.3.3.4. Street Furniture Equipment

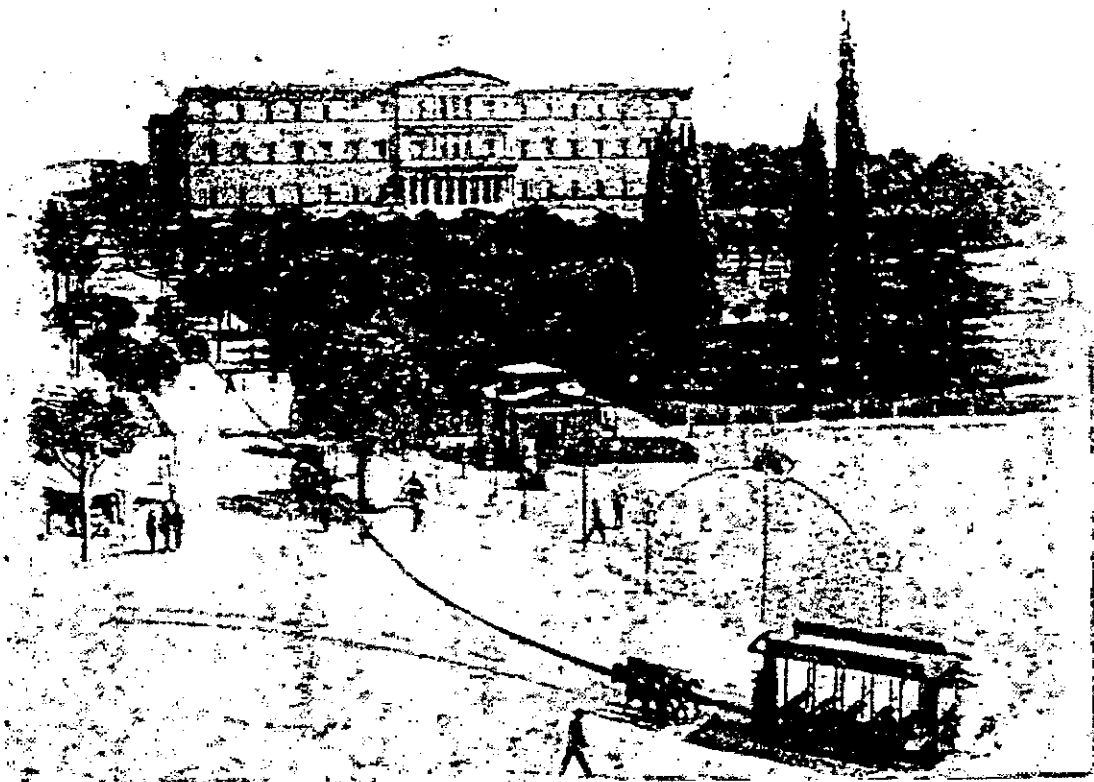
As in many Athenian Open Public Spaces, in Syntagma Square Street Furniture are not taken in account and are not integrated into the solutions.

For example, locations at the bus stops, kiosks and coffee tables are condensed into the already active by narrow sidewalks.

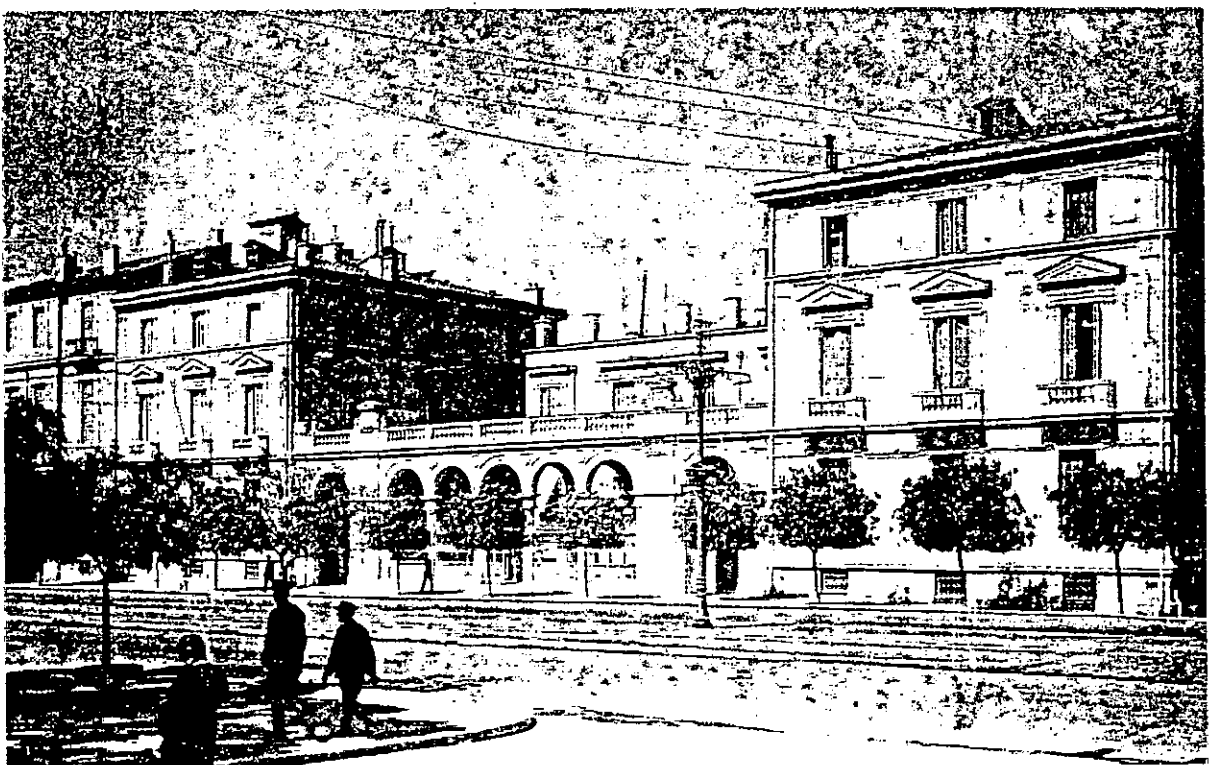
4.1.3.3.5. Historic Elements

The following elements have been considered as preservable because of their historical significance for the future reformations of the space:

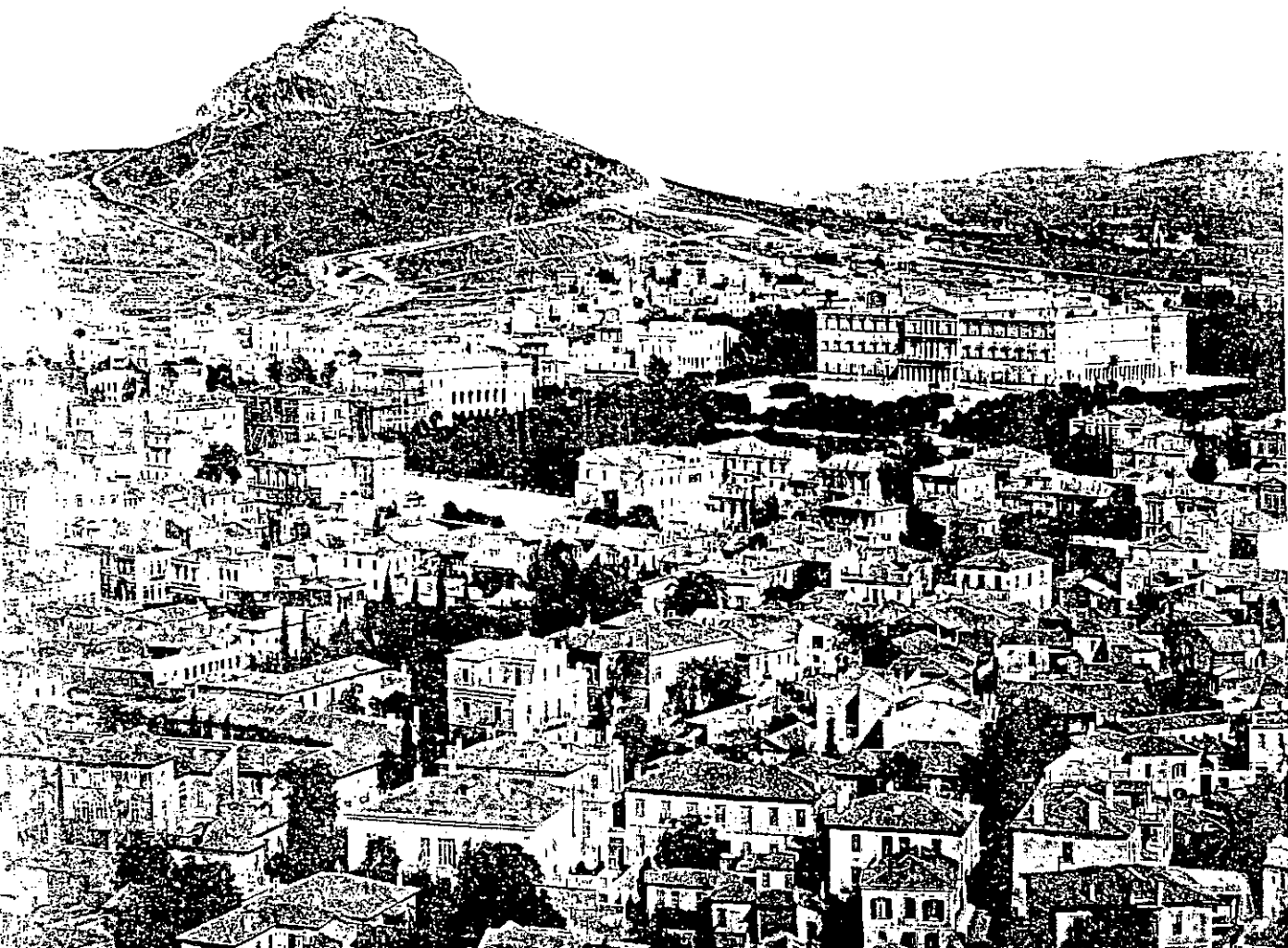
- a) The historical axis based on which, the Square was formed in 1837 (Ermou Street, axis of symmetry of the Palace).
- b) The marble stair connecting the upper and lower parts of the Square and the retaining wall.
- c) The round fountain.
- d) The big trees (cypresses, palm trees, etc) and the plantation in general.
- e) The little marble columns which separate the Syntagma Square from.
- f) The six sculptures and the ancient Muses' Garden landmark.



412. The horse-drawn tram in Syntagma Square (1900) (source: Biris 1996)



413. Negrepontis' mansion at the corner of Syntagma Square and Amalias street (1900) (source: Biris 1996)



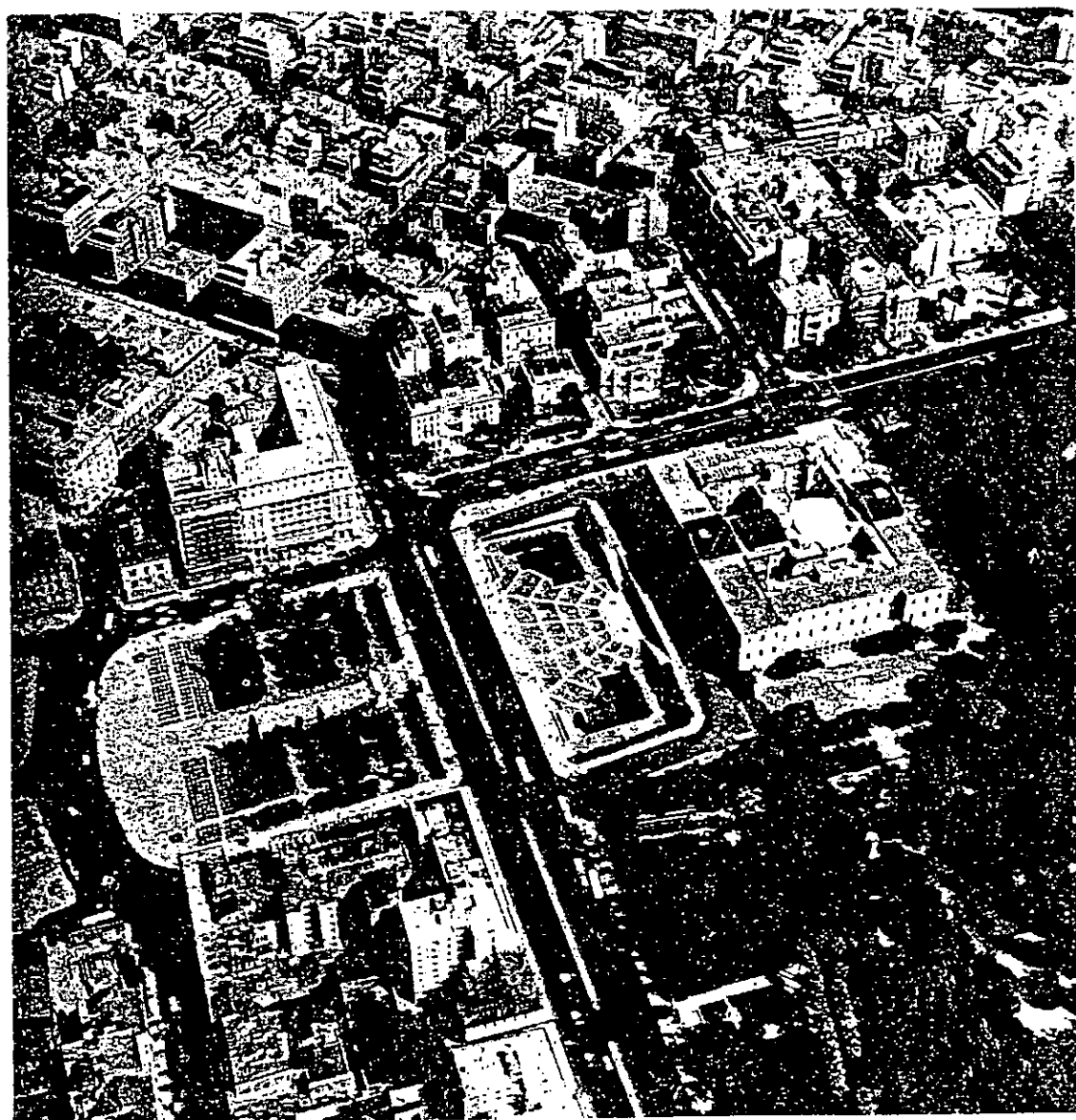
414. View of Athens with Syntagma Square, in 1873 (source: Biris 1996)



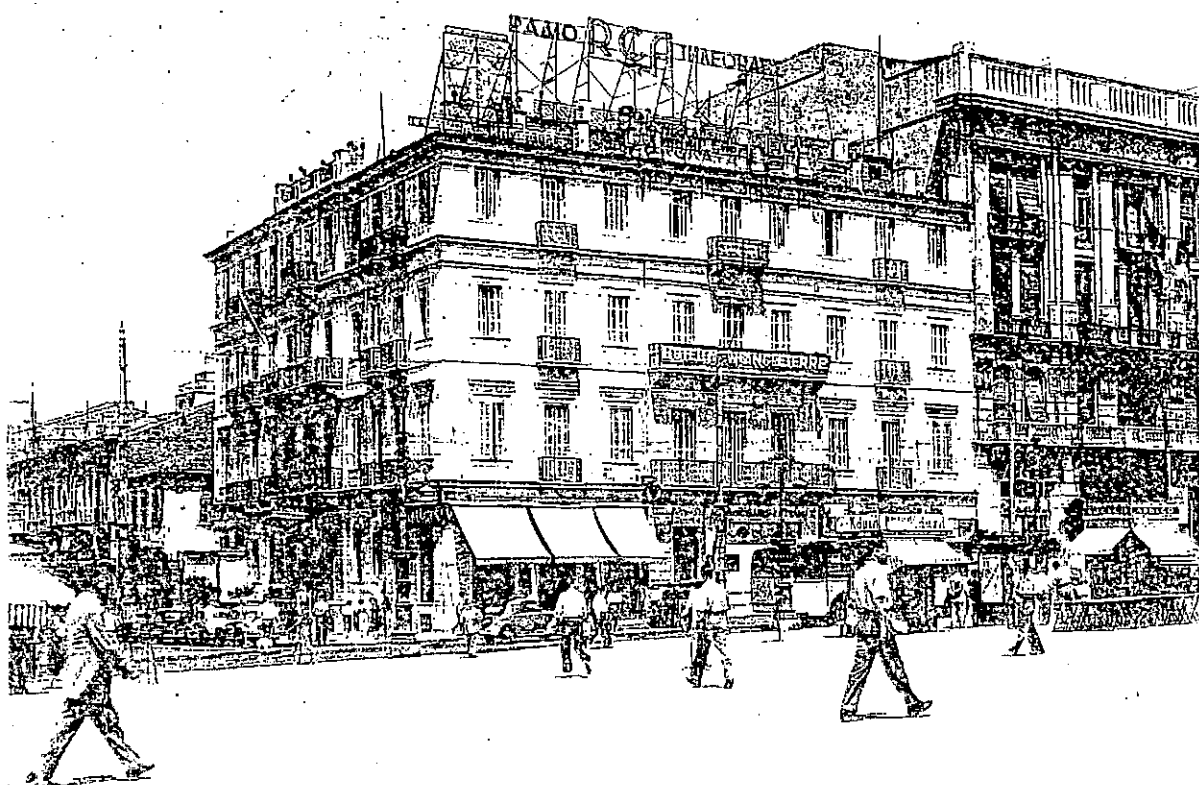
415. Syntagma Square in 1870 (source: author's collection)



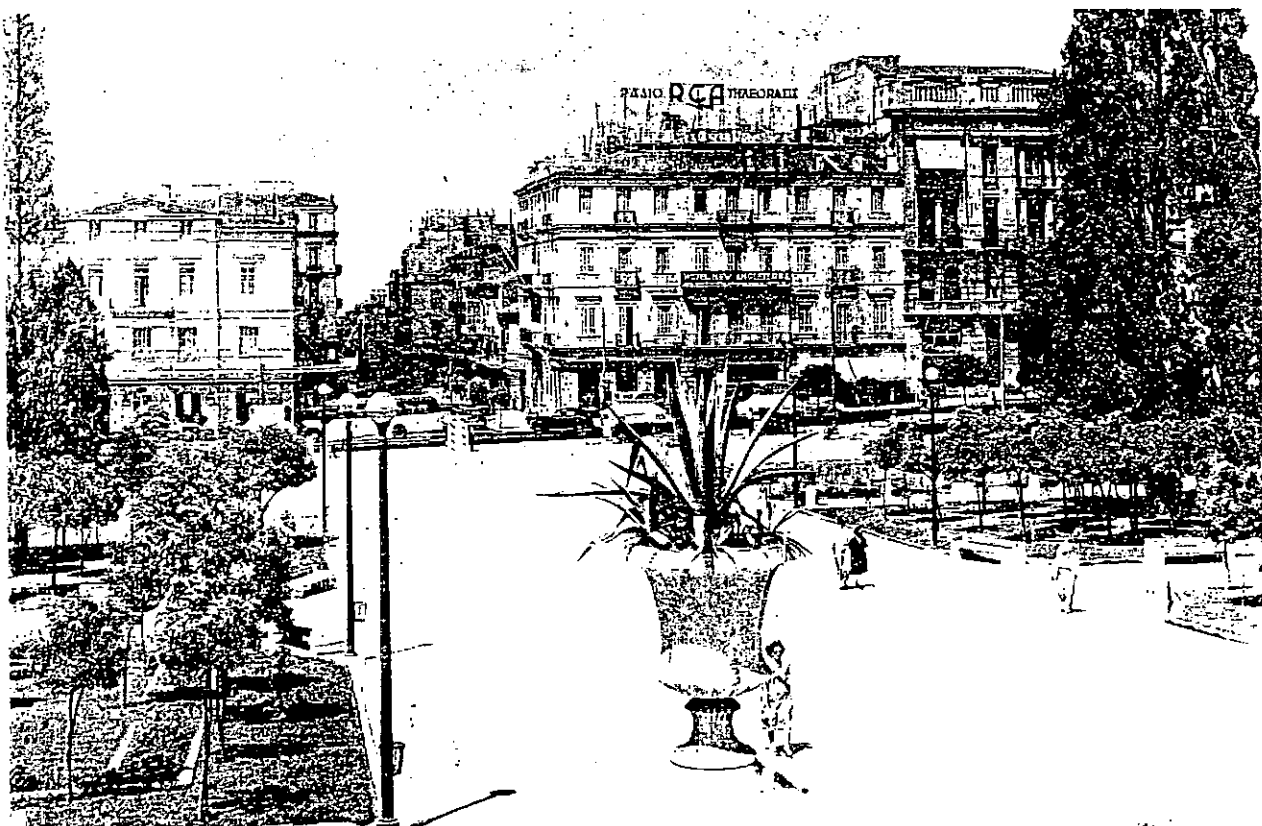
416. Syntagma Square in 1950. At right the "Grand Hotel" (source: Kathimerini)



417. Aerial view of Syntagma Square in 1960 (source: Papageorgiou – Venetis 1999)



418. Syntagma Square in 1959 (source: Kathimerini)

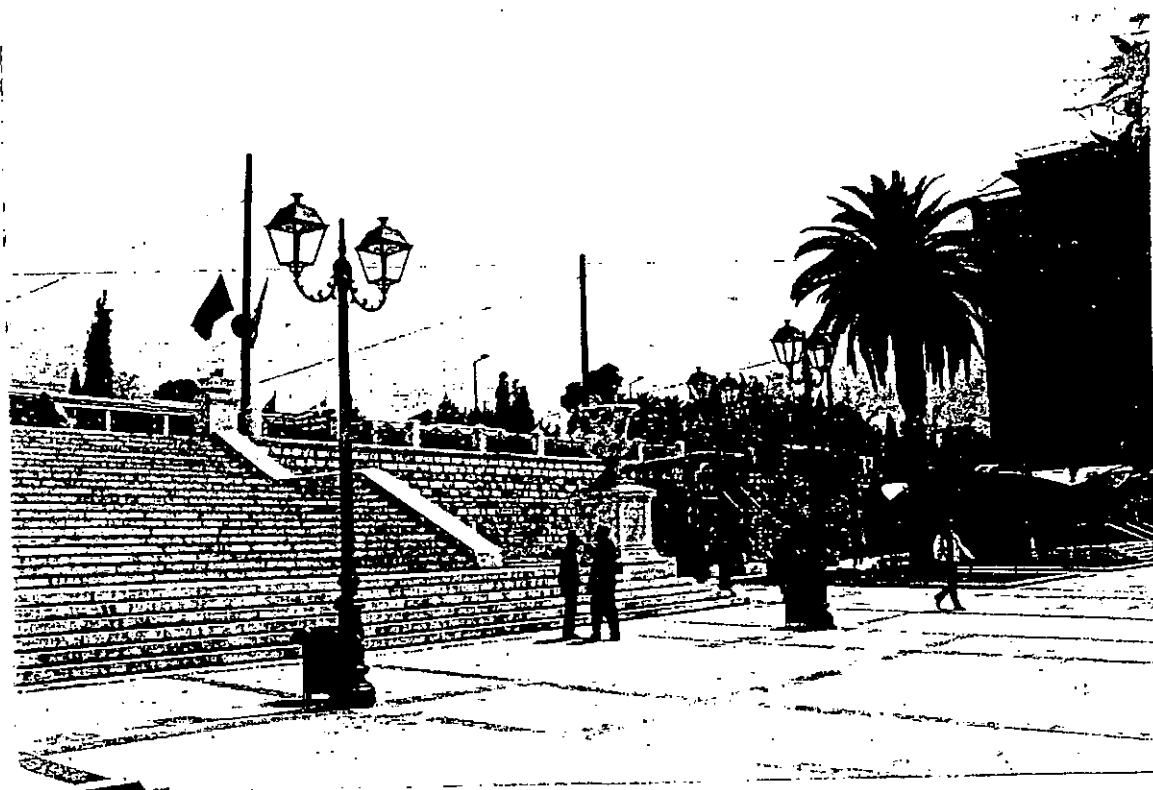


419. Syntagma Square in 1960 (source: Kathimerini)



420. Syntagma Square nowadays with its buildings covered with advertisements

(source: author's photograph)



421. The large staircase connecting the two-parts of the Square (source: author's photograph)

4.1.4. Proposals for the future

Some critics note how pedestrianization and renewal programs without traffic planning and social concern during the recent decade have disturbed the already chaotic transport network.

During 1995, a new ordinance declared the “Commercial Triangle”, the old central business area, as pedestrian –only zone-.

This made a big difference in the quality of commercial places, such as Ermou Street and other places which have been recently designed, but it displaced traffic to already congested streets.

The Square has already been a nexus of two new important subway lines, and due to this fact the whole experience of traveling to and arriving in the Square will change dramatically, as people emerge from underground into the Square.

The new Metro entrances have changed the patterns of circulation.

Located on either side of the formal staircase, which is centered at the top of the lower Square, the main entrances will most likely transform the use of the space, offering enough pedestrian traffic for all parts of the Square.

There are also another two entrances, located one on the busy corner next to Grande Bretagne Hotel and the other on the side of the Parliament building forecourt.

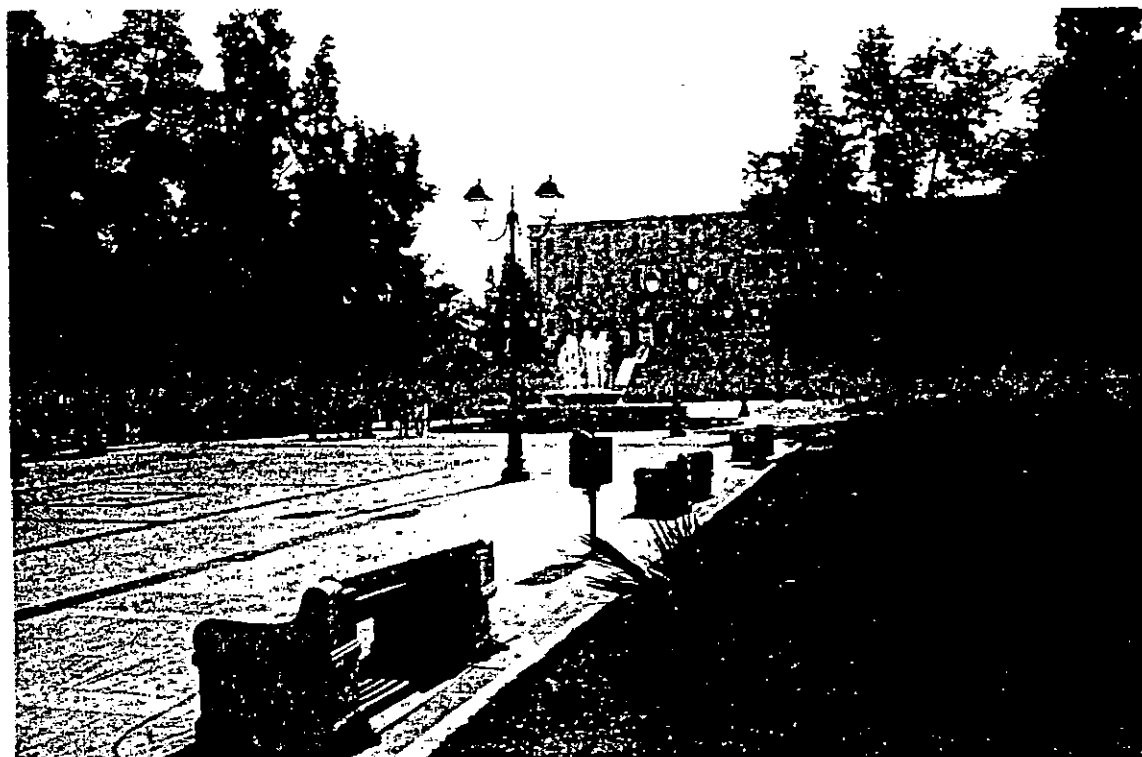
The Metro Station in Syntagma is perhaps the most spacious and for sure the “showcase” of the Metro works. Its central underground level, the lobby is arranged for the exhibition of the items found in the area during the excavations.

On one wall a whole earth section has been reconstructed, being the main interest of the passengers, although many other items have also been exhibited.

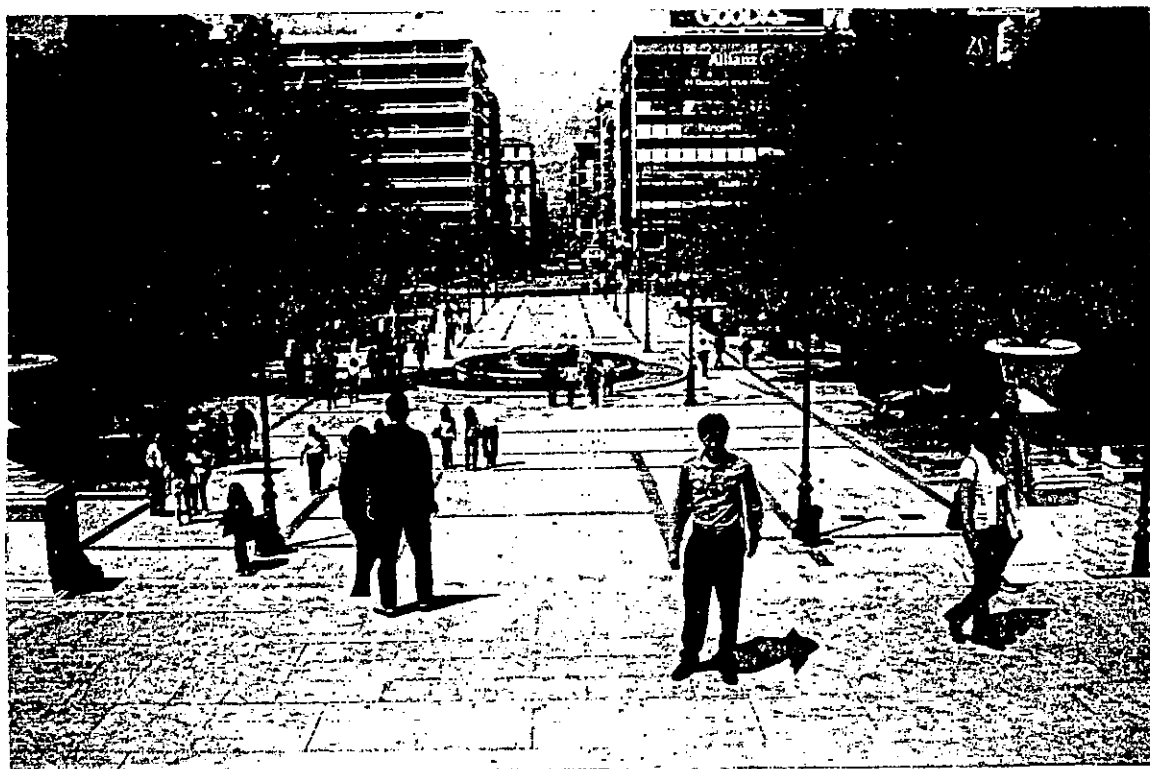
Art works have also been placed in various places such as a sculpture by G. Zogolopoulos in a light well, and a “clock-machine” by Thodoros.

Syntagma Square will be reformed according to the 1st prize (D. Manikas) of the Architectural Competition held in 1999, in the context of city’s physiognomy’s projection.

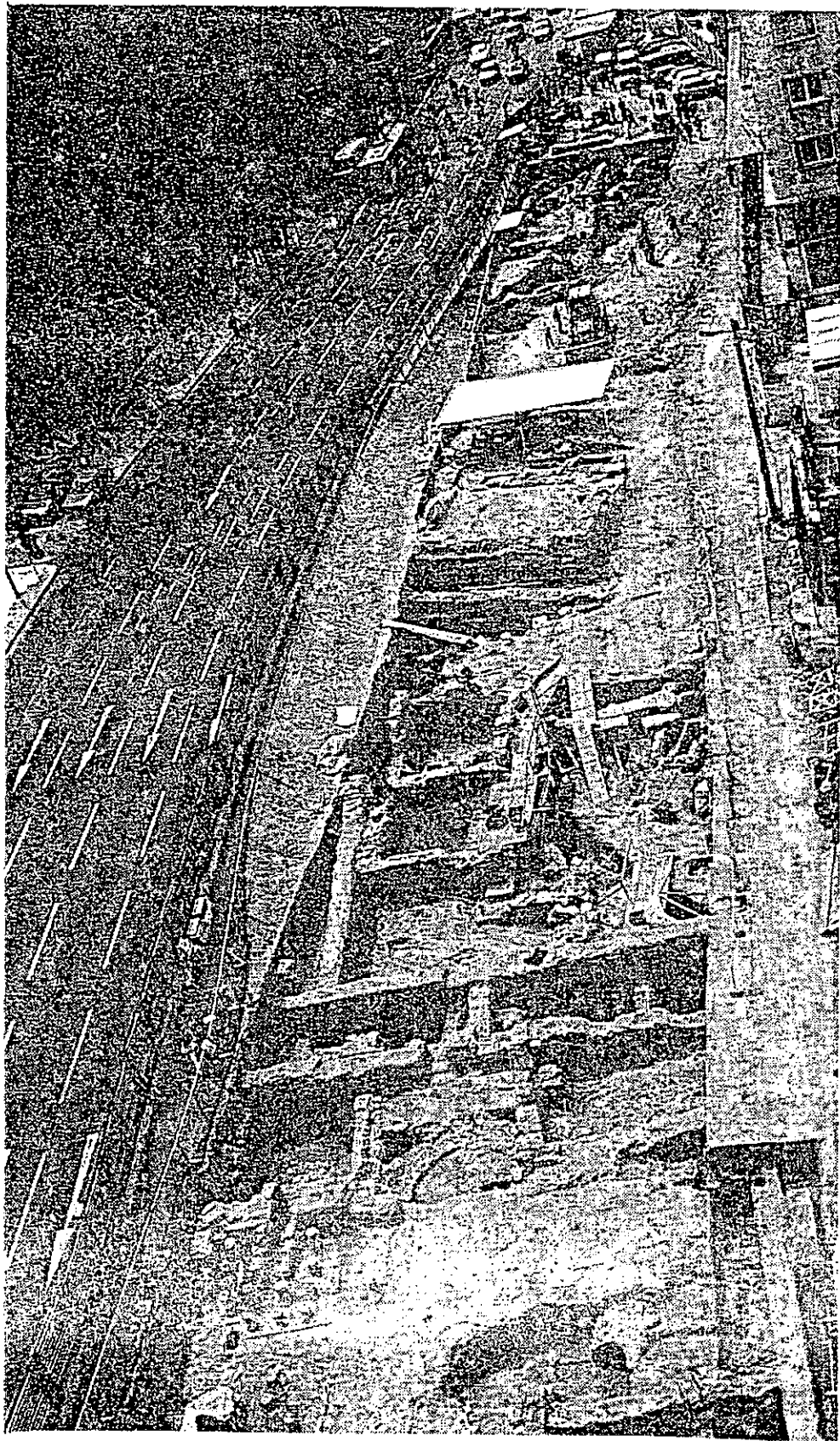
According to this proposal, the surface of the lower part of the square will be expanded up to Ermou Street, the bending continuation of Stadiou Street, which is connected with Philhellene Street, will be abrogated and only one lane will be kept for the buses and trolleys.



422. Street furniture in Syntagma Square: marble benches, litter basket, lighting posts and the historic fountain (source: author's photograph)



423. Syntagma Square from the upper part towards Ermou street (source: author's photograph)



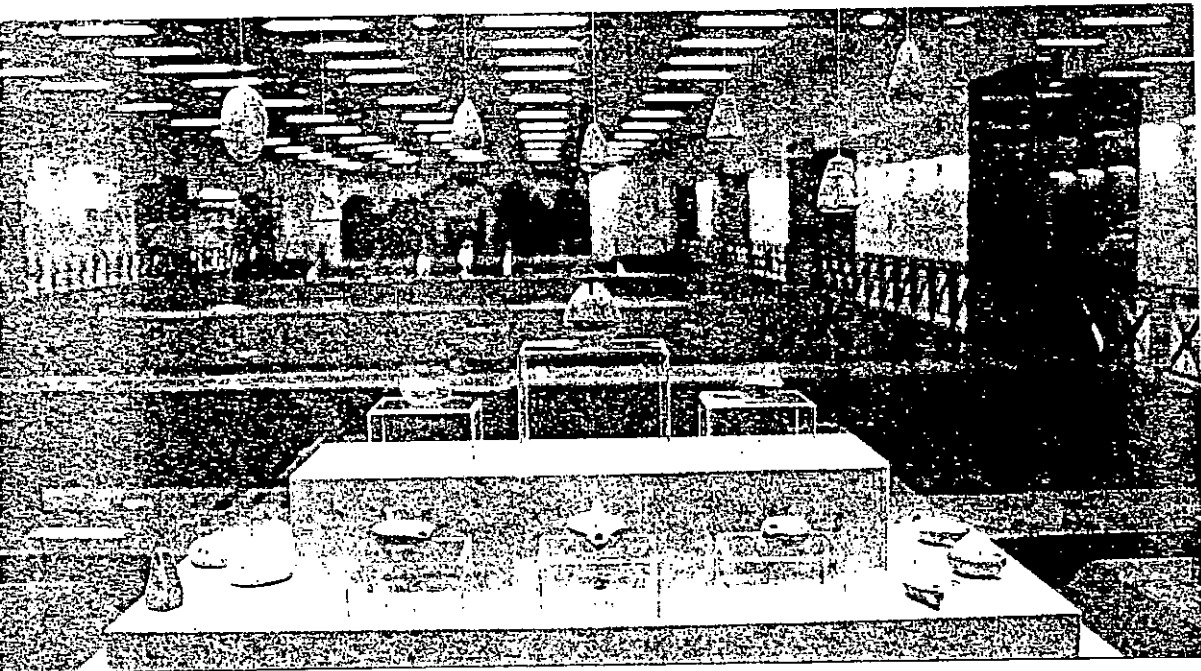
424. Ancient remains in Syntagma Square (Amalias street) during Metro's constructions (source: Kathimerini)



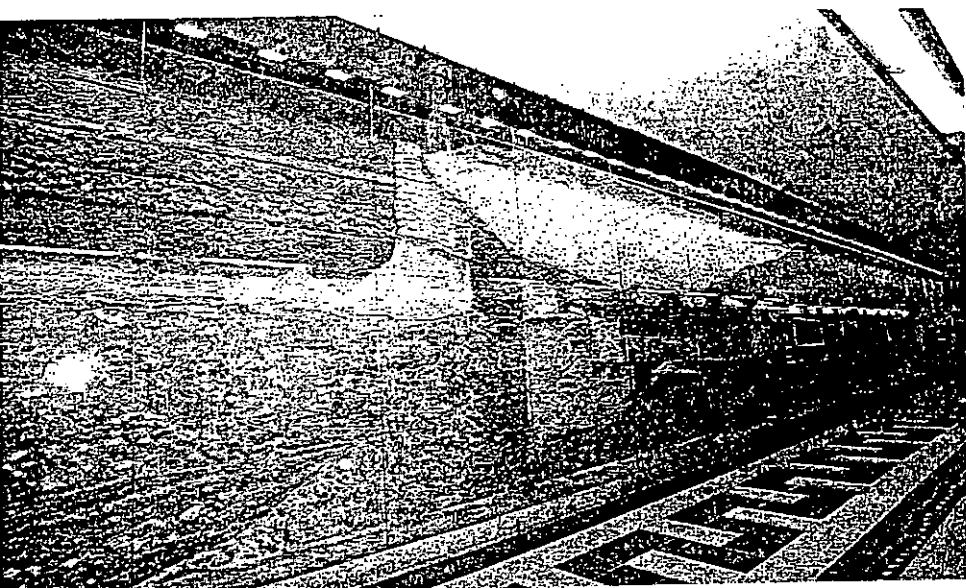
425. Excavations in Syntagma Square for Metro's constructions (1998) (source: author's collection)



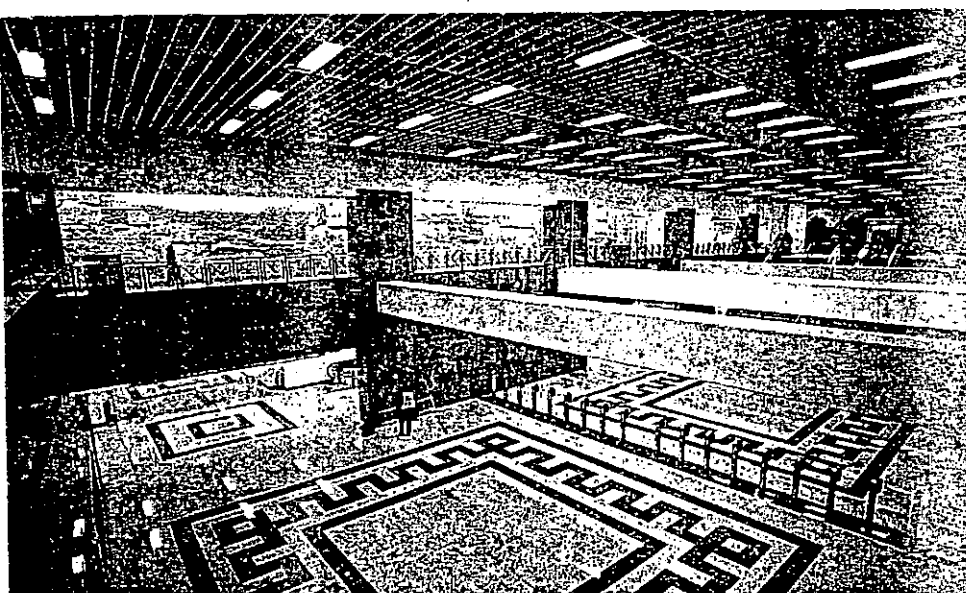
426. Excavations in Syntagma Square for Metro's constructions (1998) (source: author's collection)



427. Excavation items, exhibited in Syntagma Metro Station (2000) (source: author's photograph)



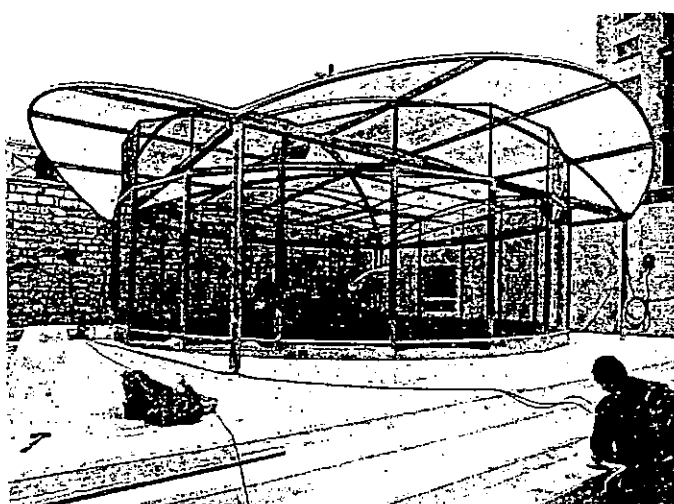
428. A ground section with the various historic layers, exhibited as a mural (2000) (source: author's photograph)



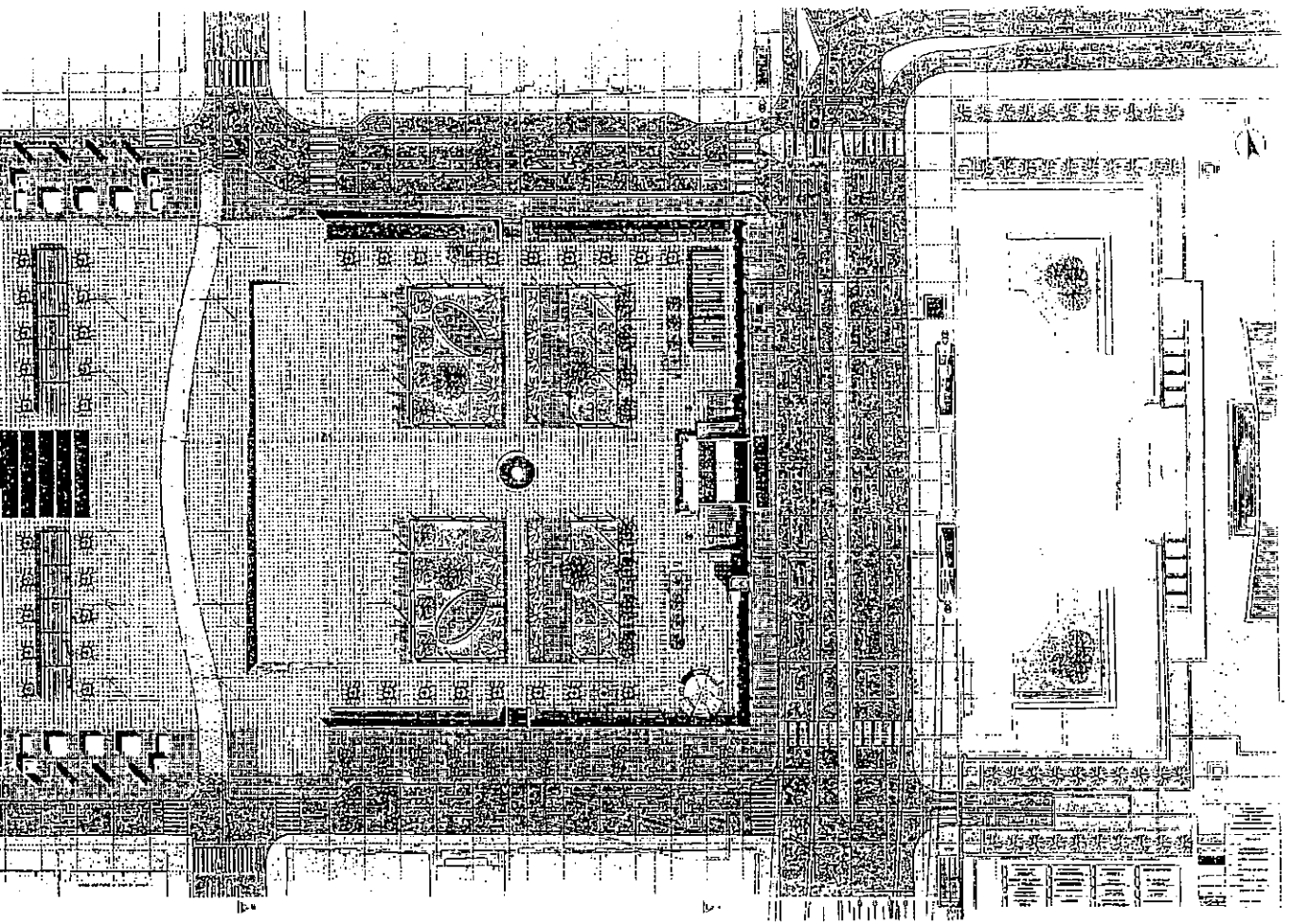
429. The main Lobby with the mural in Syntagma Metro Station (2000) (source: author's photograph)



430. Art work by G. Zogolopoulos in Syntagma Metro Station (source: author's photograph)

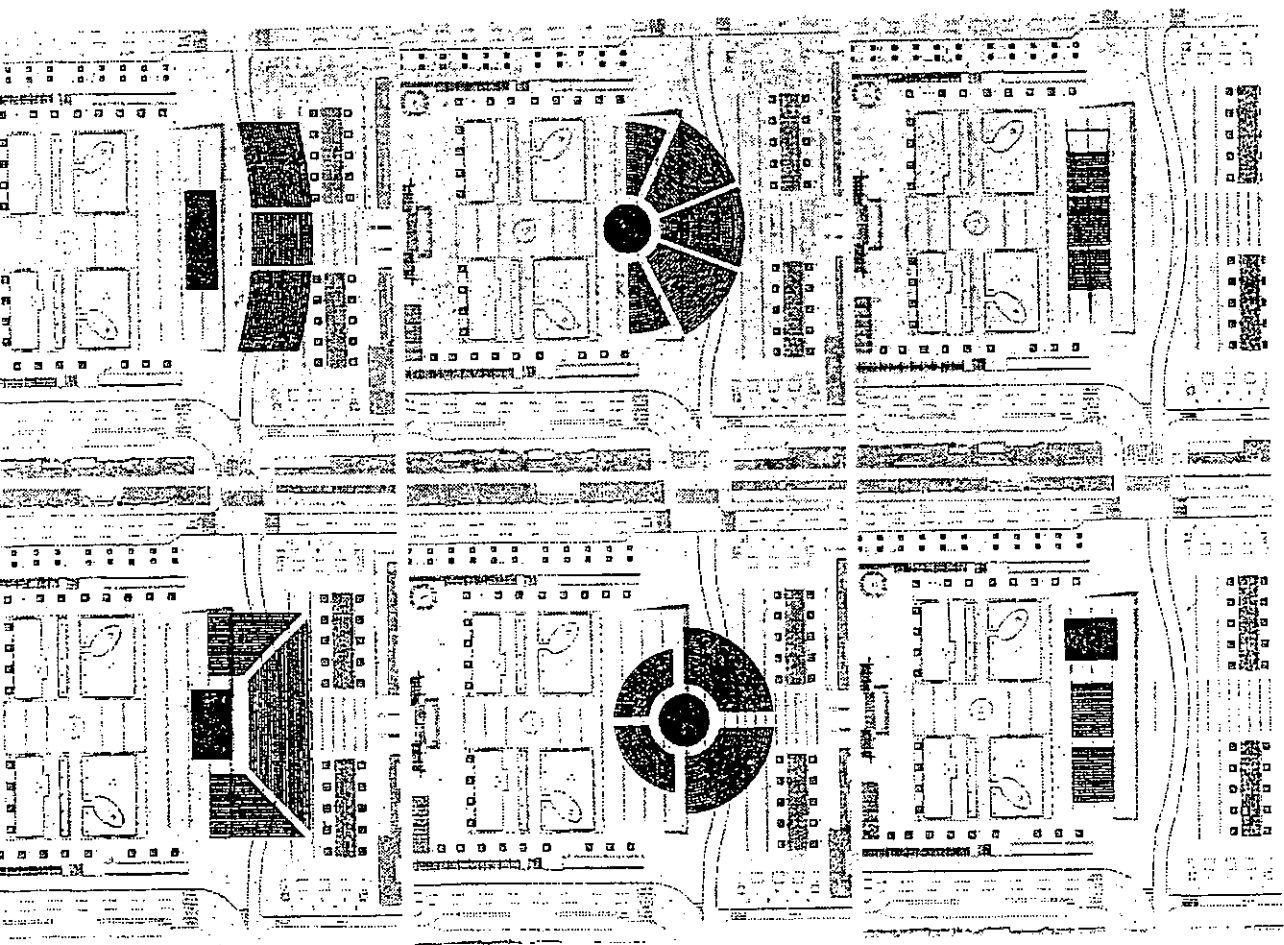


431. The skylight of Zogolopoulos' art work at Square's level (source: author's photograph)



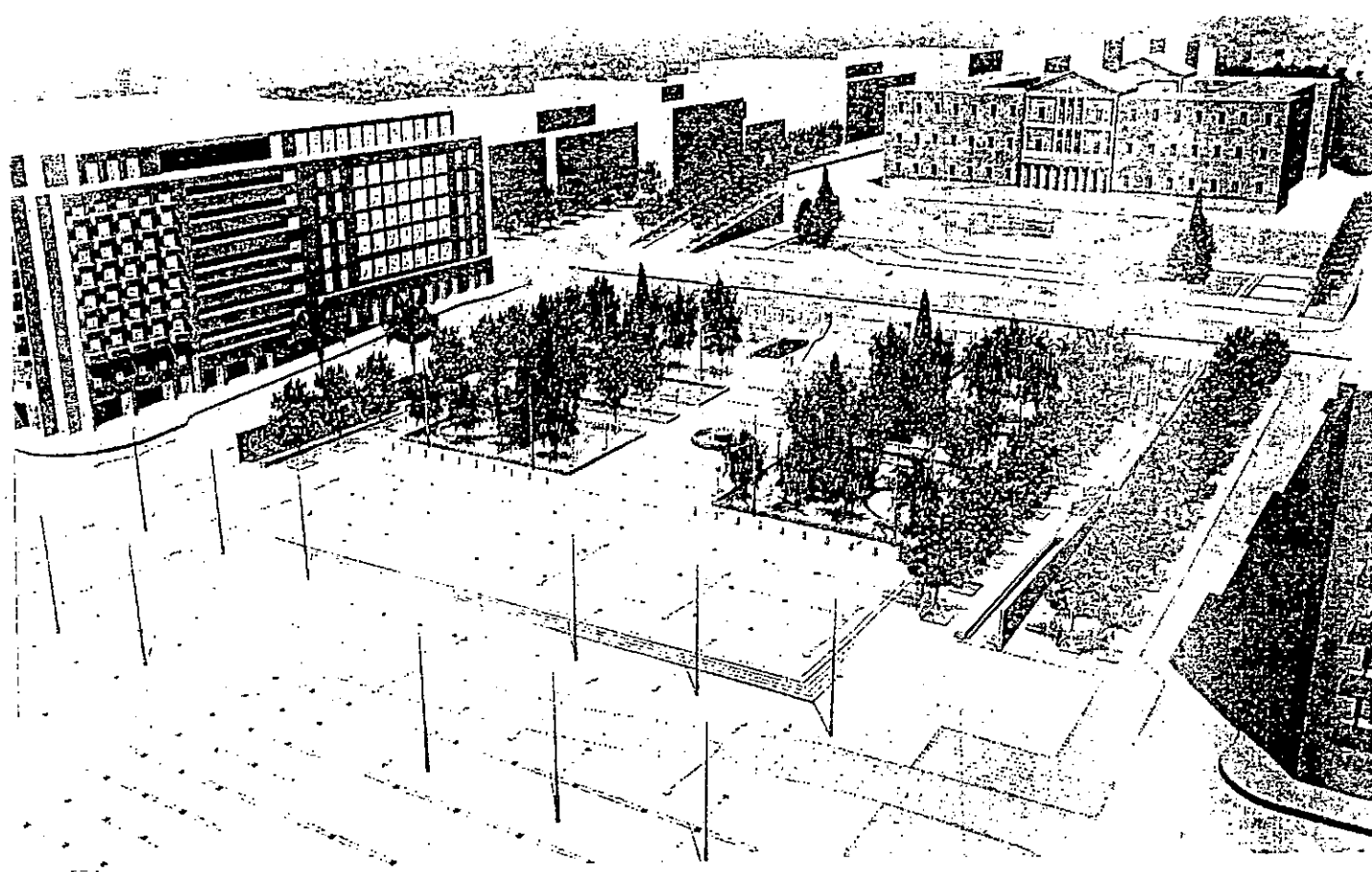
Syntagma Square as it will be after its reformation according to 1st prize proposal

(source: Unification of Archaeological sites SA)



33. Various possibilities for theatrical performances in Syntagma Square (source:

Publication in the Press)



434.Syntagma Square as it will be after its reformation (source: Unification of Archaeological sites SA)

4.2. OMONIA SQUARE

4.2.1. Structural and Functional dimension

4.2.1.1. Location of the Square in the Urban Structure

Omonia Square is located in the center of Athens, being one of the main Squares proposed by the first Town Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert, actually the most significant of that plan, deserved to be the place of the Palace.

The region at the East of Omonia Square, i.e. towards Syntagma Square and to the South, i.e. to Monastiraki Square and the Acropolis, is characterized by its neoclassical state layout, with clean hierarchy of streets network, a number of Open Public Space, such as Kotzia Square, Klafthonos Square, Syntagma Square, Koumoundourou Square, large public buildings (Municipality of Athens, Banks, Stock Exchange, Department Stores, Public Services etc).

Omonia Square is the junction point of significant streets such as Panepistimiou, Stadiou, Athinas, 3rd Septemvriou, Ag. Konstantinou, Pireos. Through these streets Omonia is connected with important places of the city.

The area is characterized by the presence of post-war buildings, which replaced many neoclassical building during the city's reconstruction of the '50s and '60s.

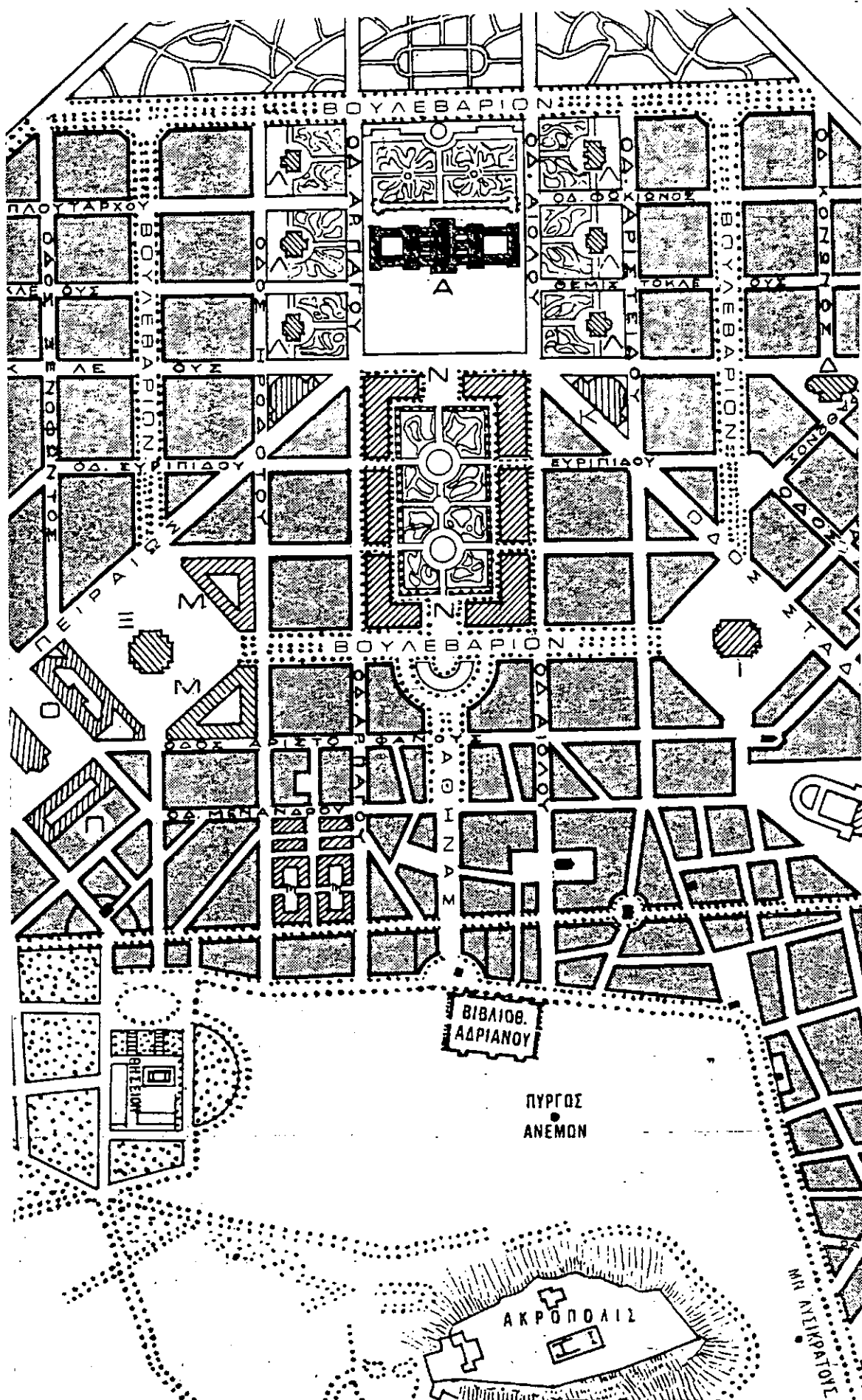
Today the results of that reconstruction look poor and obsolete. Some of the office buildings on Stadiou and Panepistimiou Streets, appear as multi-store buildings.

The region surrounding the Omonia Square, is a typical sample of city's center: mixed land uses, with retail commerce, services and amusement shops as the primary element, as well as a number of Department Stores.

Once the plan for the city was decided with the modifications by L. von Klenze and the transfer of the Palaces' position to Syntagma Square, Omonia Square lost its role as an Administrative Center and structures were built accordingly.

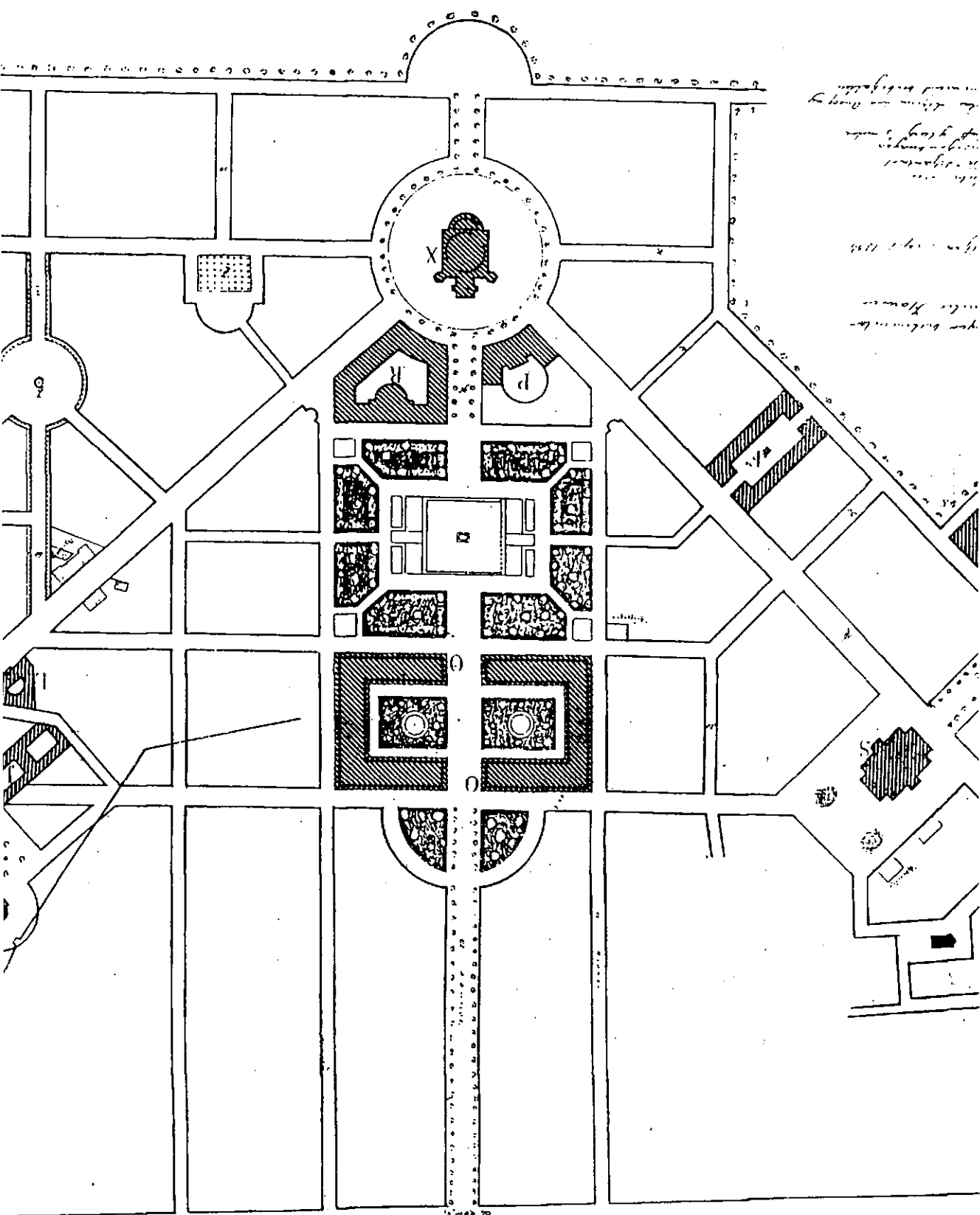
However, it was a slow process lasting well until the end of the 19th century, as initially the old city was south of Omonia Square near the Acropolis, and was connected with Omonia through Athinas Street.

Although decreased in size an importance by the Klenze's alternative, Athinas Street kept its commercial character as scheduled by Kleanthis – Schaubert Plan, therefore, the central New Market was built on it, but much smaller.

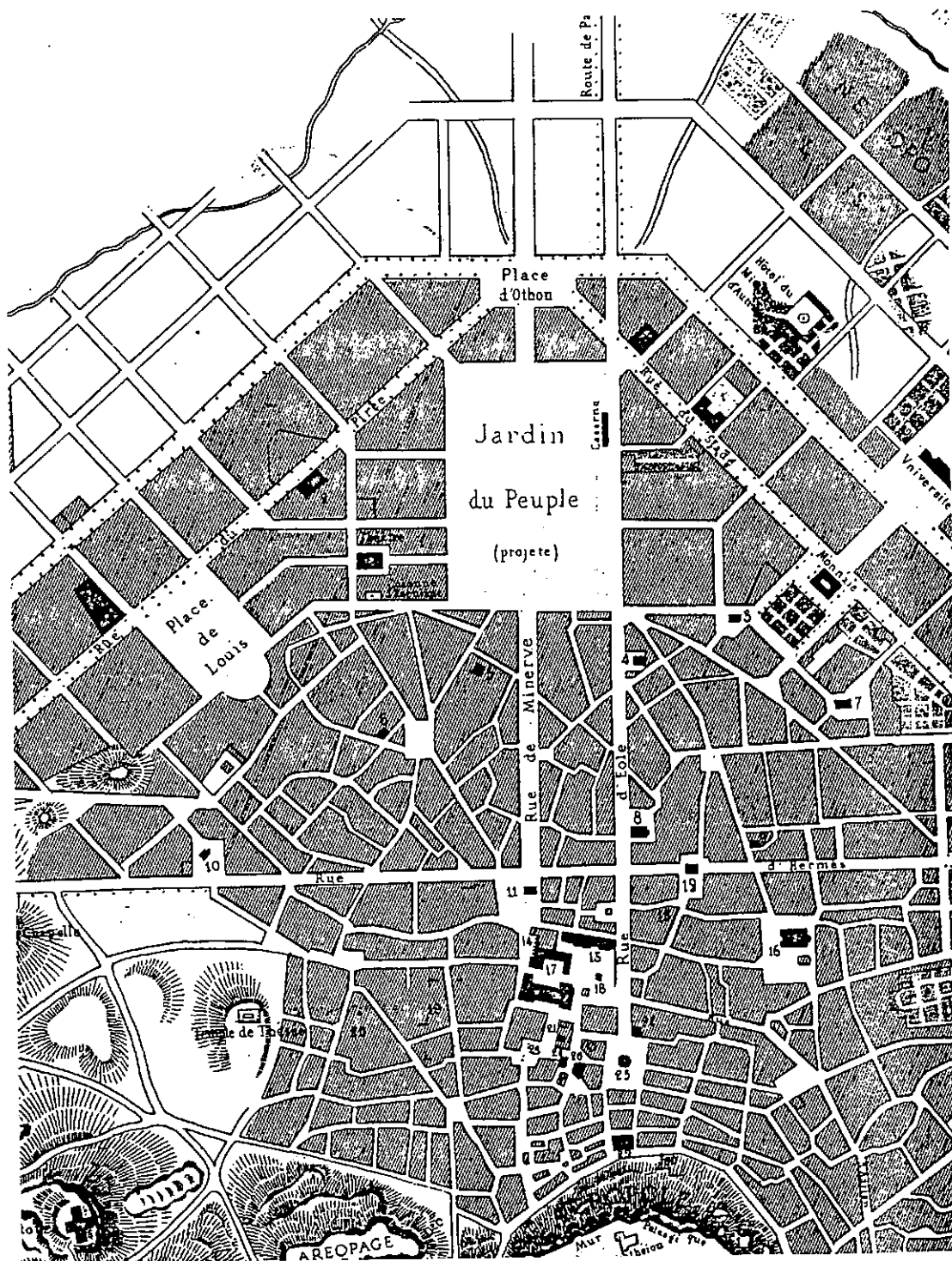


435. Omonia Square in Kleanthis – Schaubert Plan with the Royal Palace (A) (1833)

(source: Biris 1996)



436. Omonia Square according to L. von Klenze's plan (1834) (source: Biris 1996)



437.Omonia Square (Place d' Othon) according to Chevanard (1843), next to "Jardin du Peuple" (source: Biris 1996)

Despite the location of the Municipality of Athens on Athinas Street, as well of Schools, Banks etc, the street maintained its commercial character, which gradually expanded in Omonia's vicinity.

Today, the special characteristic feature of Omonia Square is its orientation towards the servicing of low-income social classes.

During the first post-war decade, the coffee shops of the square consisted the meeting point of internal immigrants from the province, because of its location near the train stations.

Nowadays, the square's sidewalks, are full of various ethnic minorities, searching for a better life.

In its south, on Athinas Street, there are two specialized markets: the Central Food Market and the retail market of tools and household goods.

4.2.1.2. Relationships with the Urban environment

At the heart of contemporary Athens, Omonia, the omphalos of the city, is served and defined by eight streets, which represent not only physical, but political, cultural and intellectual connections to the rest of the city.

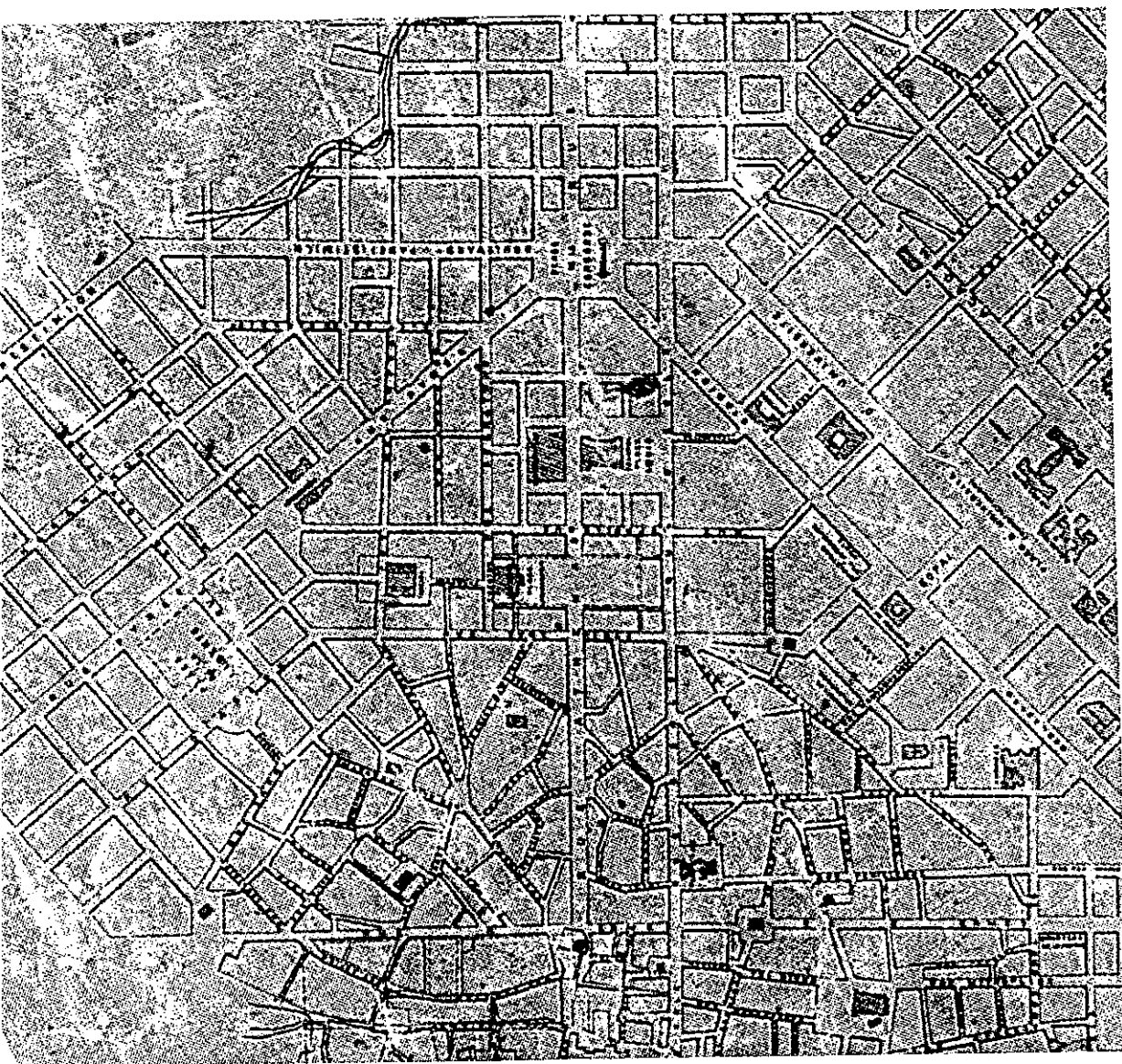
In the first Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert, the new streets connected the would be Place's Square with the Stadium (Stadiou Street) and the Acropolis (Athinas Street), the Port (Pireos Street), the University (Panepistimiou Street) and manufacture areas (Ag. Konstantinou Street).

These were the streets which defined Omonia Square and are today major thoroughfares within Athens.

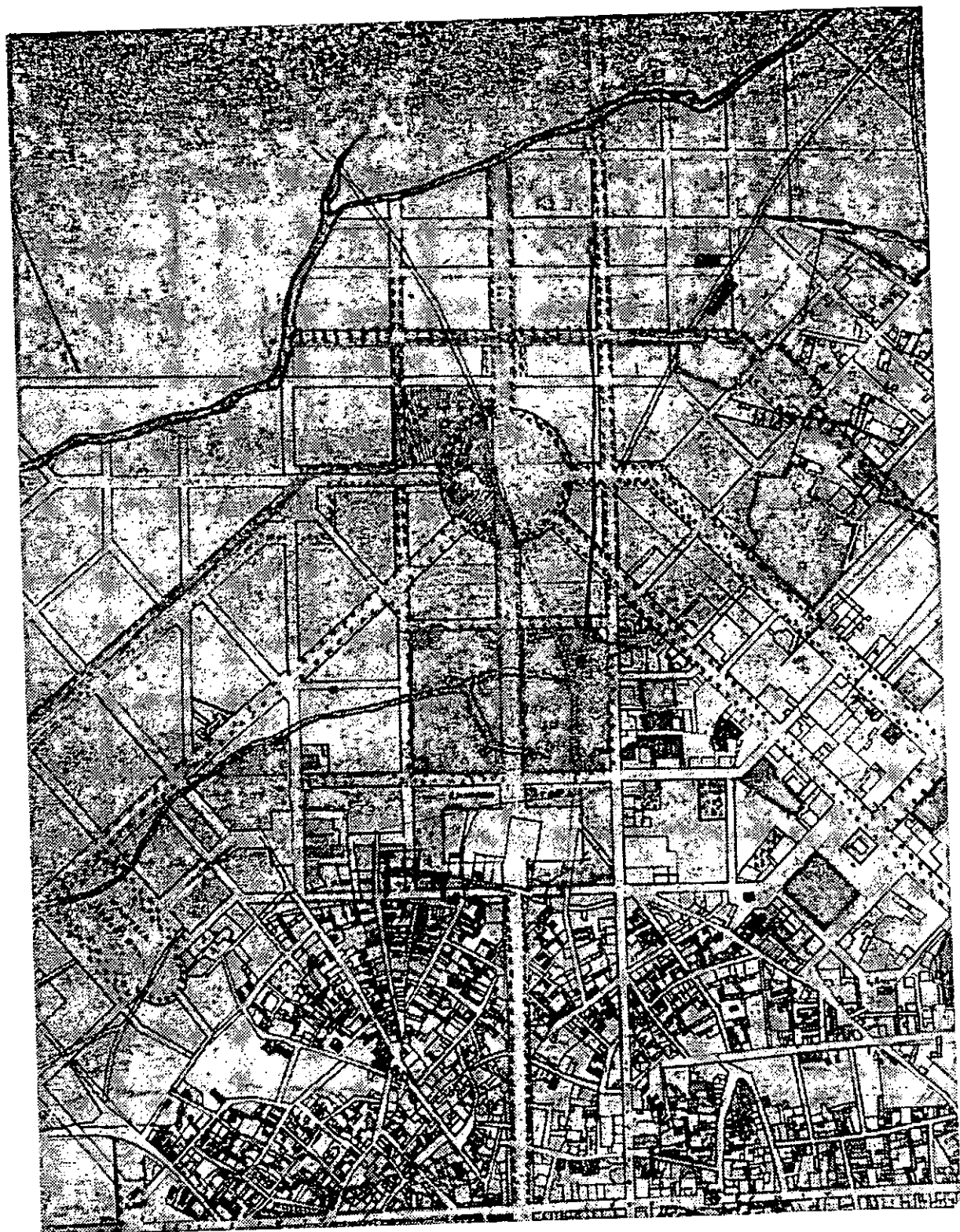
Terminating at Omonia Square, Panepistimiou Street connected official cultural production with the would be and the final royal residence, with the interval of the cultural center.

In order to hasten the political and cultural incorporation into Europe, the "Trilogy", University, National Library and Academy was intended to address its projected image as a cultural center.

Today, it continues to function as the connection between the State, in the from of the Parliament, to cultural institutions (University), and the city's commercial area (Omonia).



439. Ormonia Square in a map of Athens (1876) (source: Biris 1996)



Omonia Square (round) according to Committee of 1847

As it enters into the Square, at the most congested point, views into the square are primarily of buses and other automobiles.

Athinas Street represents the connection of modern Athens with its past, directly tying Omonia to the public markets of the older town of Plaka and Monastiraki. Views focus on the dominant Acropolis and other monuments.

Pireos Street is a busy street connecting Omonia Square with Piraeus port, therefore it was the first street constructed.

Initially, the first part of it, starting from Omonia, was a middle class residential area with nice neoclassical houses, connecting Omonia with important antiquities such as Keramikos area and Iera Odos.

In mid distance, there is Eleftherias (Koumoundourou) Square, while the “Third Square” scheduled by the first Town Plan was never constructed.

Today, Pireos Street has a retail commerce character with frenetic sights and sound of public life.

Stadiou Street is one of the basic axes of Kleanthis – Schaubert Plan, etched to connect the Palace’s Square to the axis of the Stadium.

Stadiou Street firmly connects “commercial” Omonia to “cosmopolitan” Syntagma, with the interval of Klafthmonos Square, a Bank area, the Commercial function with the State through the Financial Institutions.

Ag. Konstantinou Street connects Omonia with the Church (Ag. Constantinos) and Culture (National Theater), as well as with manufacturing and low income residential areas.

4.2.1.3. Functions

Since the beginning, in 1834, due to its position on the intersection of significant road axes, such as Pireos, Panepistimiou, Athinas Streets, Omonia became a significant road junction and therefore a buggy and carriage station.

Prior to Otto’s deposition, Athinas, Eolou and Stadiou streets were formed and churches, the National Bank and the Varvakio School were built.

However, a building burst occurred in the 1870’s and in that period two luxurious neoclassical hotels “Baghion” and “Alexander the Great”, designed by E. Ziller, were built.



440. Omonia Square with its cosmopolitan hotels and garden formations (1890)

(source: author's collection)



441. View of Athinas street, from Omonia Square (1890) (source: private collection)

Omonia became a spectacles' and amusement center in the 1880's, as the covered theater "Efterpi" and other open-air theaters were built, while coffee shops and "café-chantants" operated.

Since 1880, the terminal of horse drawn trams was installed on the Square.

In 1888, the extension of the initially steam -driven railway Athens - Piraeus to reach Omonia Square was decided, while next to Omonia, on Lavriou Square was the terminal of the so called "monster" i.e. the train to Kifissia suburb.

Later on, in 1908, lines were laid for the electrically driven trams, which were passing through Omonia, connecting the city center with the districts.

The new railway station for the electrical trains to Kifissia, was inaugurated in 1930.

At that time the central part of the square was transformed into a circular pedestrian area the within a square broader space with flower selling kiosks in its center.

4.2.1.4. Traffic

The post-war conditions in Athens had created large concentrations of economic activity in the inner city.

Omonia Square, being the one pole of the Athens' central business district, reflects a part the socio-economic status of the city, concentrating in its region manufacture and wholesale commerce and attracting consumers from western working class areas.

The road traffic had a rapid rise in the last 30 years, with an increasing amount of private cars, with the relevant pollution consequences,

The traffic is most serious around the Commercial Triangle at the apex of which, Omonia is located.

Traffic around Omonia at all hours is debilitating, not just during business hours.

The pedestrianization of all streets, except for a few ones, within the area of the "Commercial Triangle" will rather cause a displacement of traffic onto already congested streets, such as these leading to Omonia Square.



442. Omonia Square with electrical trams installations (1908) (source: Biris 1996)



443. The north-west side of Omonia Square with the famous cafés in 1902 (source: private collection)

The new proposal for the improvement of traffic conditions is aiming to the attribution of the biggest possible part of the square to pedestrians and to the improvement of circulation conditions in a especially aggravated area.

The proposed circulation arrangements refer to the interruption of circular traffic around the square and the creation of two one-way axes: Panepistimiou – Ag. Constantinou towards Karaïskaki Square, and the Pireos – Stadiou towards Syntagma Square. The other two streets, Athinas and 3rd Septemvriou, are kept as they are today.

Omonia Square is a nexus of important underground lines. Therefore the overall experience of arriving in or leaving the square is different than in other Public Spaces.

4.2.1.5. Pedestrian circulation

The restructuring of Omonia Square in 1960, completely changed the pedestrian traffic patterns.

With the square's center excluded from pedestrian routes and the creation of the underground level as a passage and access to the trains, the only possibility to cross the square is to go through the underground passage.

The location of Metro entrances on the wide sidewalks all around the square facilitate the choice to go from any point to another in the square, although the non-operating escalators and the downgraded passage make this route unpleasant.

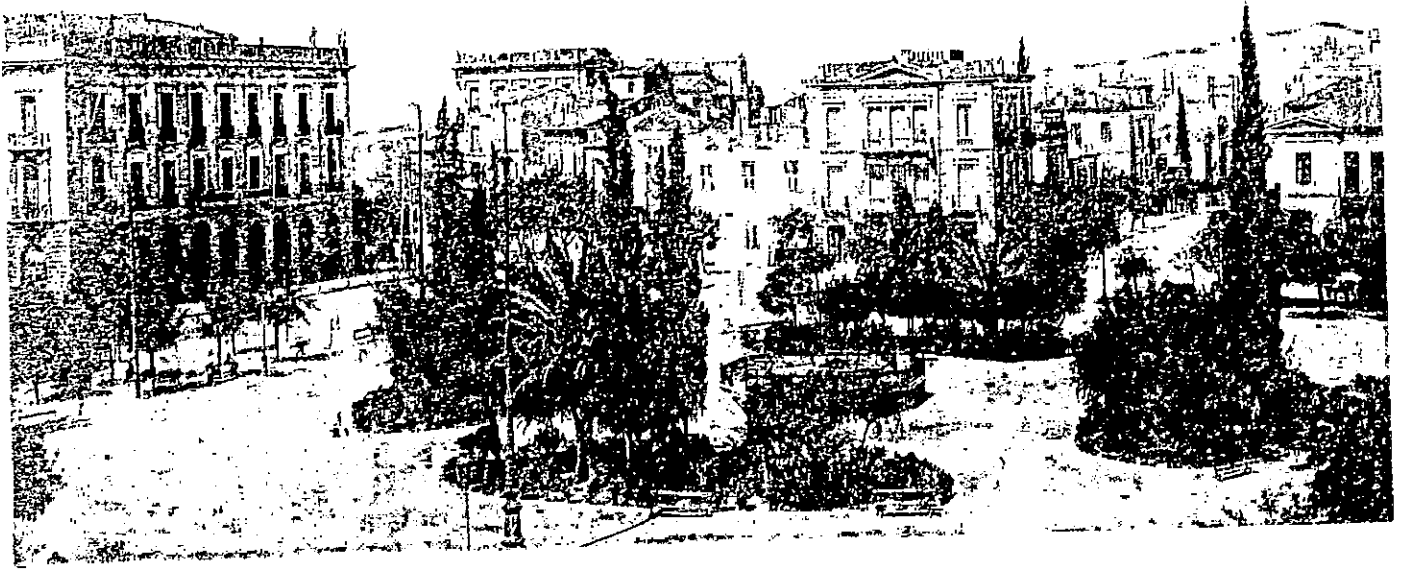
The general upgrading held of the Metro stations will surely improve the situation.

There are essentially many pedestrian routes traveled daily around the square.

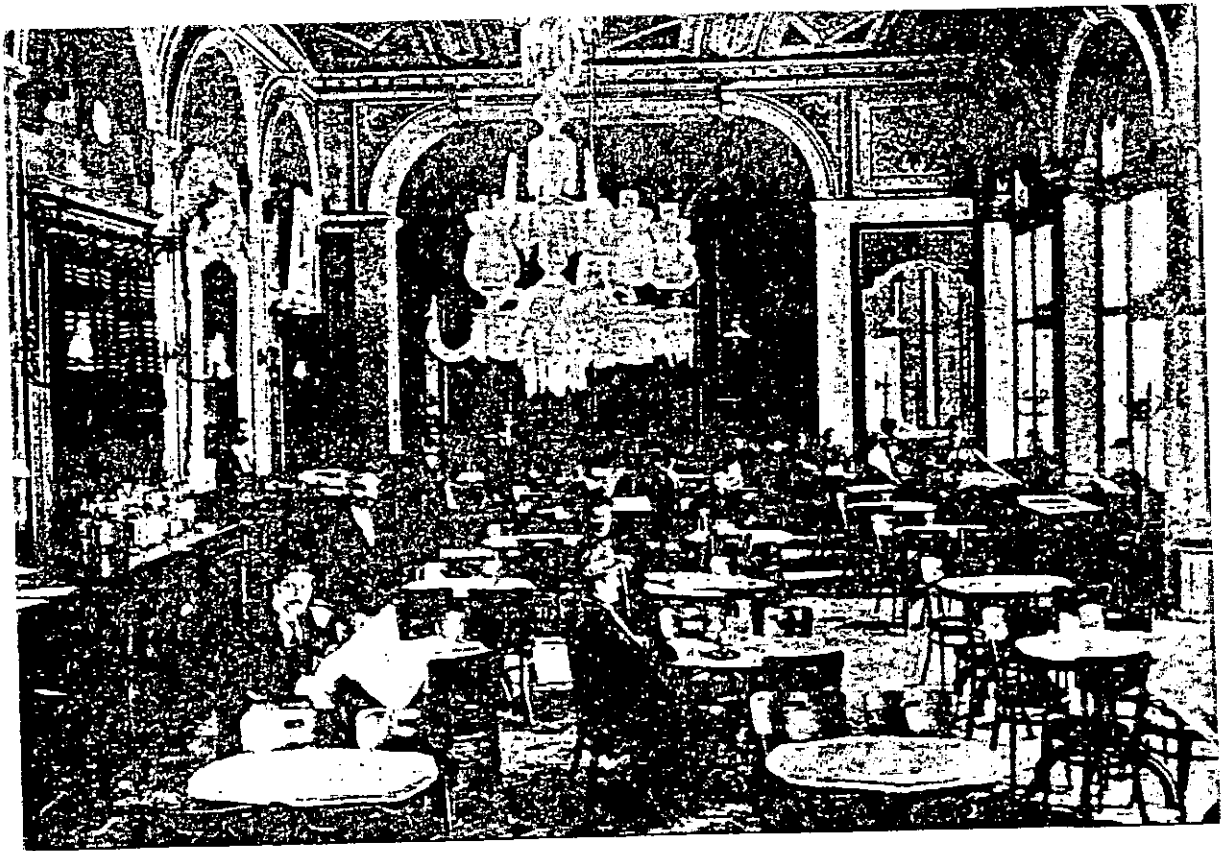
Although the congestion is most felt at the end of each workday, it continues throughout the workdays and evenings.

Considering that Omonia Square is the popular commercial center of modern Athens, its sidewalks hardly correspond in terms of depth to accommodate the agglomeration of pedestrians strolling the streets, transferring from bus lines or the Metro.

Various commercial uses such as retail shops attract a number of consumers, adding difficulties in the congested sidewalk, while the whole pedestrian circulation is left undefined.



444. Omonia Square towards Ag. Constantinou and Pireos streets. At left "Alexander the Great" Hotel (1890) (source: Biris 1996)



445. The interior of "Zacharatos" Café (1896) (source: private collection)

4.2.2. Semantic dimension

4.2.2.2. Significance and meaning to the city of Athens

Omonia Square was selected by the first Town Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert, as the best position of the new town deserving the position of the Palace.

The political and cultural aspirations to achieve cultural unity and national definition and to connect modern Greece with classical antiquity, as well as to become part of Europe, were manifested on the first Town Plan.

According to documents of the Municipal Property Service, of the Municipality of Athens, is concluded that the space was expropriated by the Municipality in 1834 for the erection of the Place, and later on, was formed as a square under its first name, Otto's Square.

The place of Omonia Square consisted the remotest north edge of the first Athens' Town Plan, by Kleanthis and Schaubert in 1833. It was placed at the north apex of a triangle formed by Stadiou, Pireos and Ermou streets.

In this position they proposed an orthogonal square having the Palace in its center, with views to the Acropolis which was on the north-south axis realized by Athinas Street and nice views to the countryside and other directions

Eleven streets, the most important of which being Pireos, Stadiou, Panepistimiou, Athinas, Eolou etc, were ending in this square.

Athinas and Eolou streets were connecting Omonia, the new city with the old town (Plaka, Monastiraki). Omonia Square was scheduled to comprise the Administrational Center of the new Capital, with the Palace, Ministries and other Public Buildings.

Because of the presence of the Palace the square was named Palace's Square.

In the north of the Palace a large Garden was provided, consisting the limit of the Town Plan.

A second rectangular square, named People's Garden was planned on the axis of Athinas Street, next to Palace's Square, where the Theater, the Stock Exchange and a Casino were placed.

The realization of this Town Plan did not proceeded due to the reactions of landowners.

In order to find a compromising solution, Leo von Klenze was assigned with the revision of the plan, at least the items which created the most acute protests.



446. View of Athinas street, from Omonia Square in 1902 (source: private collection)



447. Omonia Square towards Stadiou street with Green and sitting areas, in 1904
(source: Biris 1996)

Leo von Klenze proposed the transfer of the Administration Center and the Palace to Keramikos area.

At the intersection of Stadiou and Piraeus streets, where Kleanthis and Schaubert placed the Palace's Square, he created a much smaller circular square, precursor of today's square, named Otto's Square.

In its center, the German architect placed the "Saviour's Church", the erection of which was decided in 1834, in token of gratitude for the victorious outcome of Greek Revolution of 1821.

However, not the Klenze's plan was completely applied either, as by the Royal Decree of 18th December 1849, the square was transformed into an orthogonal one, and later on, it was filled with earth and planted with trees.

Although Omonia lost the first position in the city's hierarchy by Public Spaces with shifting of the Place with the proposals by L. von Klenze and finally by Fr. Gartner, it remained the "heart" of the city, the most active and probable the most famous one.

The first formation of Omonia Square was in the period 1859-61

In 1859, on the occasion of the 25 years of the new capital, it was decided the Otto's statue to be placed in the center of the square, but this decision saw not materialized, because a little later, on 11th October 1862, Otto was deposed from Greece and the name Otto's Square was wiped out.

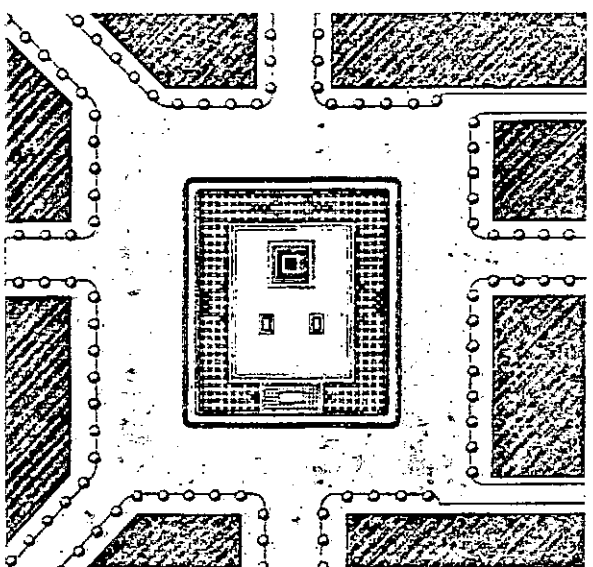
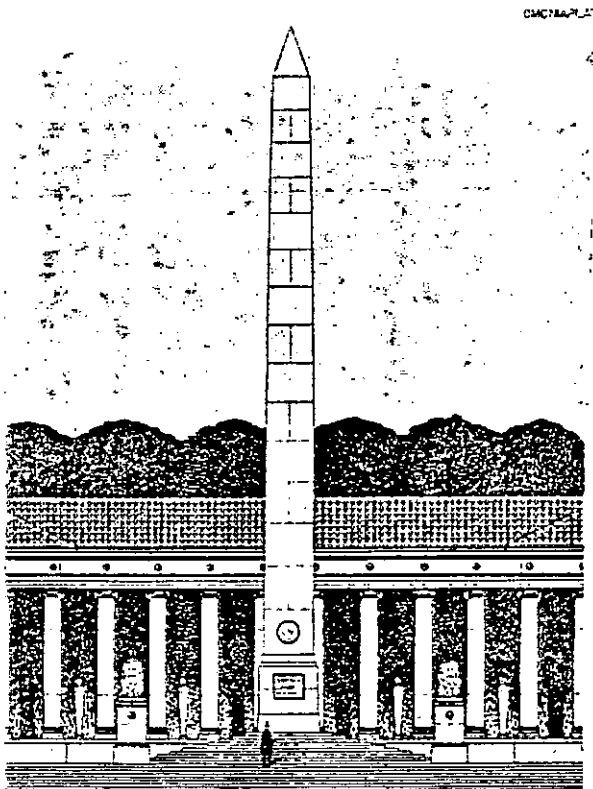
In 1863, when Em. Katsikaris was Mayor of Athenians, in remembrance of the agreement between conflicting political groups following Otto's expulsion, and under the common belief that this square should be a nation's unity's symbol, it was renamed to Omonia (Concord) Square.

In 1870, there was another decision for a monument's erection on the Square's center, expressing the Nation's gratitude to veterans of 1821, but it was not realized.

Since this period, Omonia Square and Syntagma Square are the two most important central squares of the Capital.

At the turn of the 19th century, Omonia Square was planted with trees, and a polygonal marble stand was installed in its center, for musical concerts, while since 1862, Omonia was lit with gas, and the relevant installation became a space element, while it was asphalt covered in 1906, along with Panepistimiou, Stadiou and Athinas streets.

In 1889, it acquired the first (limited) electric lighting.



448. Proposal by L. Hoffmann for the formation of Omonia Square,
with arcades and an obelisk (1910) (source: Biris 1996)

At the end of 19th century, Omonia was one of the most beautiful areas of the city, with large and fine hotels, such as “Baghion”, “Alexander the Great”, many cafés and amusement centers and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

In the decade 1900-1919, the underground train connection between Monastiraki and Omonia Square was constructed.

Its character started to change mainly in the first decades of the 20th century.

It became more “popular” and “provincial” in comparison to Syntagma Square, due to the presence of stations of trains and other transportation means in its vicinity.

In 1930, the construction of the electrical sub-station for the needs of the railway and the relevant air ducts was the reason for the construction of eight high Muses’ statues on the perimeter of the square on high pedestals.

Only one of these concealed the ventilation duct, and all others were converted into kiosks.

Although these formations provided an integrated “European” Character to Omonia Square, the reactions led the Mayor, K. Kotzias to demolish them.

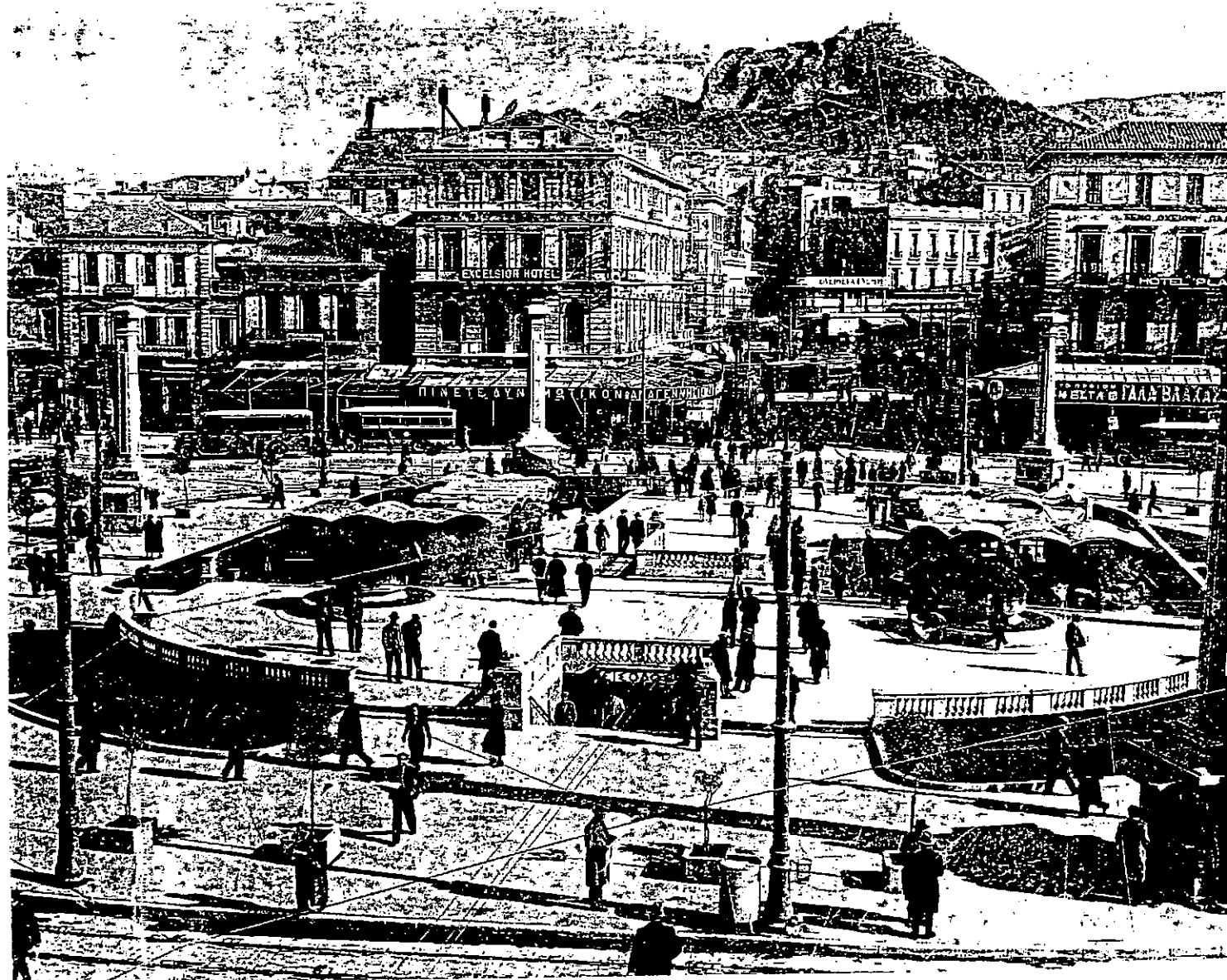
A severe restructuring was conducted in 1960, when C. Karamanlis was Prime Minister. A first underground level was created providing access to the train platforms (on a lower level) and commercial uses, accessed with escalators from the square level.

The central area of the square was decreased, its circular center was formed in a “Modernistic” manner, with a polygonal pool and a fountain, not allowed to pedestrians, who were congested in the peripheral side walks where the escalators were also installed and the first underground level which became also a “Public Space”.

This form was modified once again, when M. Evert was Mayor in 1982. A large glass sculpture the “Runner” by K. Varotsos, was placed in the center, while palm trees were planted at the perimetric sidewalks.

The recent excavations for the Metro works converted the square into a huge worksite for many years, which left an unorganized area, waiting its formation according to the first prize of the Architectural Competition.

Today Omonia is practically a road junction and is not a square, i.e. a place of recreation and walk.



449. Omonia square with Muses' columns, flower selling kiosks and entrances to train station, in 1938 (source: Benaki Museum)

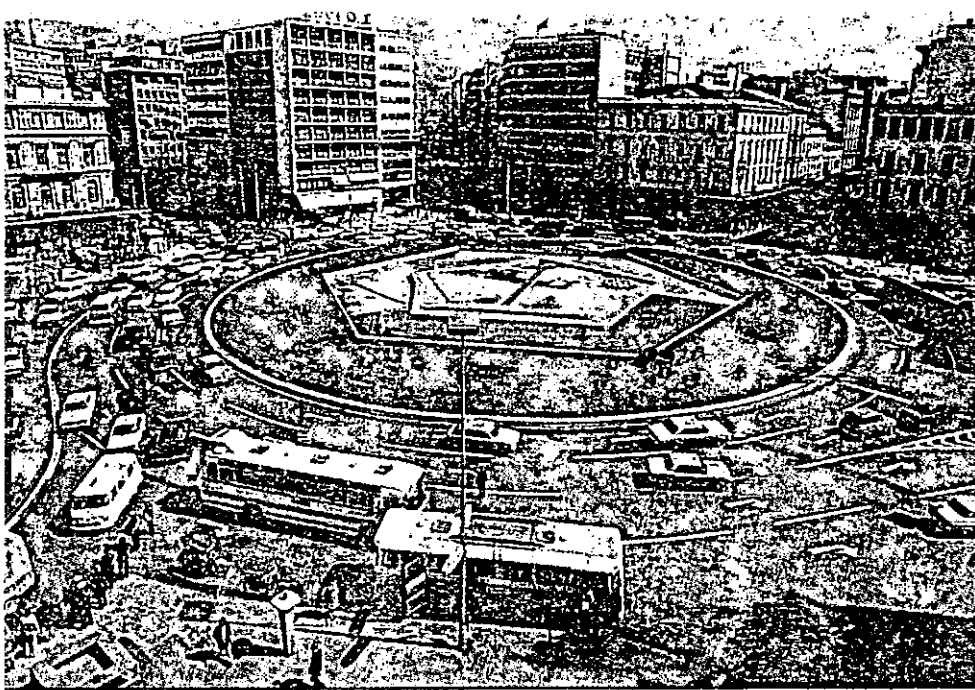
Omonia Square operates as a gathering place in an area with intense vehicular traffic around the circular center.

It is a focal point of the city, a place of civic realm, which evolved into a commercial center. Within its span of life of 150 years, the square's development has coincided with the city's rapid development and westernization.

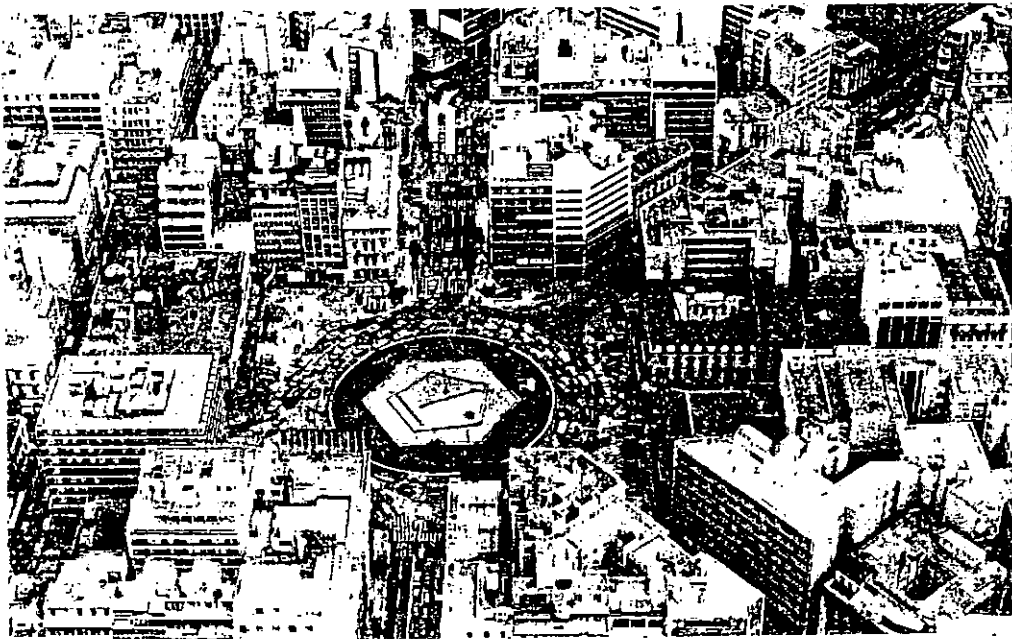
Because of its centrality and its connection to financial, administrative, social and commercial institutions, Omonia Square continues to be at the center of many of the transformations taking place in the city.

Nowadays, Omonia Square passes a period of decadence, however, there are hopes for its upgrading through private investments.

The old "Metropol" and "Omonia" Hotels operate converted into Department Stores, the "King Minos" Hotel has been renewed and upgraded and "Baghion" Hotel has been converted into a private college.



450. Omonia after its formation in 1957 (source: author's collection)



451. Omonia square as a traffic junction after its formation in 1957 (source: author's collection)

4.2.3. Structure of the Space

4.3.2.1. Topography, Shape

Omonia Square, is a Square void within the city, its location defined by the first Town Plan, although in different size and shape.

The ground at the time of its creation was rather a horizontal one, without any risings, in an open area with nice views towards the Acropolis, the ancient landscape near it, and to the surrounding natural landscape, with the mountains all around.

The north south of the square is realized by Athinas and 3rd Septemvriou streets.

Two other streets Stadiou and Pireos, meet the square at a 45° angle in relation to north-south axis.

The east-west axis is realized by Ag. Konstantinou Street and the first part of Panepistimiou street.

There are also two secondary squares, parallel to 3rd Septemvriou, starting from the east-west axis and going towards north.

The square is surrounded by buildings forming a closed built environment with no voids except for the streets.

Three of them are old neoclassical hotels, the one at the corner with 3rd Septemvriou and the other two (designed by E. Ziller) on the corners of Athinas street.

There is also an interesting eclecticistic one at the corner with Panepistimiou Street, while all others are from the post-war period, of six or seven storeys, forming a continuous front surrounding the square.

4.2.3.2. Elements

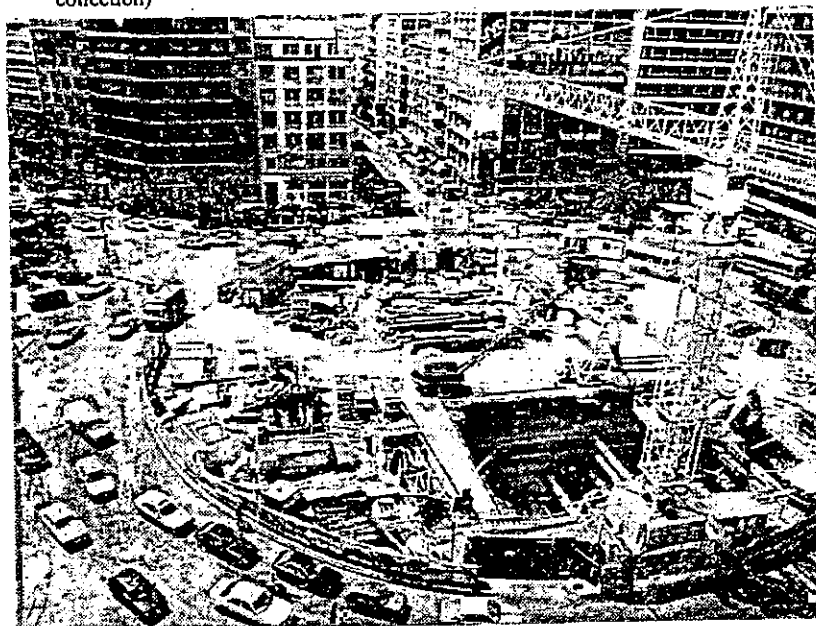
Today Omonia is almost bare from elements, waiting its new formation. The only one remaining are those existing in the perimetric sidewalks, such as kiosks, Metro entrances with escalators leading to underground levels, the equipment by Municipality, such as railings, litter baskets etc, and elements of plantation such as Palm trees.



452. Enjoying the fountain in the '60s (source: author's collection)



453. Omonia Square after the "Runner" sculpture in the '80s (source: author's collection)



454. Omonia Square during Metro's construction in the '90s (source: author's collection)

4.2.3.2.1. Arcades

Arcades are a dominant modern building technique in Athens, improved by Building Regulations in the '60s, on streets and squares, in order to improve their circulation efficiency, combined with buildings replacement by new ones, during the city's post-war reconstruction.

The rhythm of these arcades could create a strong typology in squares like Omonia, but as this system can only be applied when a new building is constructed, final resulting in a discontinuous pattern, existing on only a number of the buildings of the square, adding to the morphological and organizational confusion of space elements.

4.2.3.2.2. Advertisements

An inseparable part of commercial function, the signs, labels posters and advertisements, have reached a negative point, contributing to the confusion in space organization.

From the small labels of any kind of retail shops, to giga-posters covering parts of buildings facades, or changing the skyline, they have come to an exaggeration creating false space perception, especially at night.

Attempts to control the situation have been declared by the Ministry of Environment in a program of elevation of square's character.

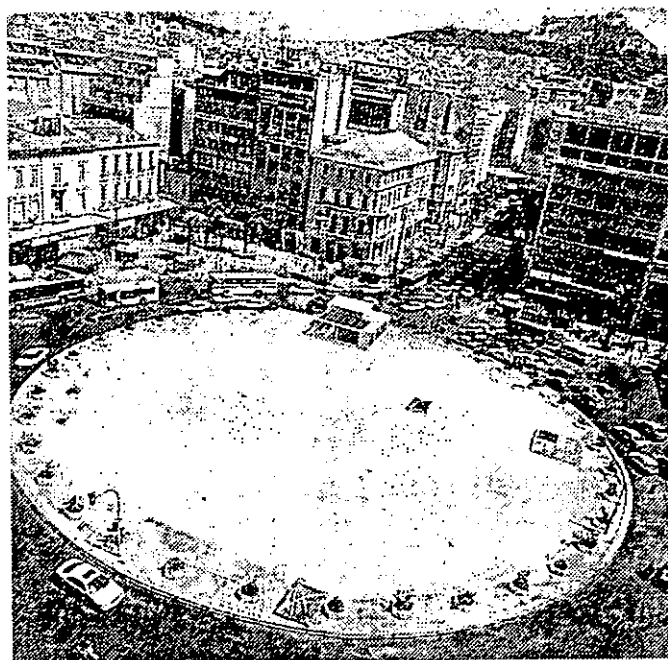
4.2.3.2.3. The Café's

When Omonia Square was redesigned in the '60s and was converted into a traffic junction, it lost its central part, which up to then was the most important for its social vitality and character.

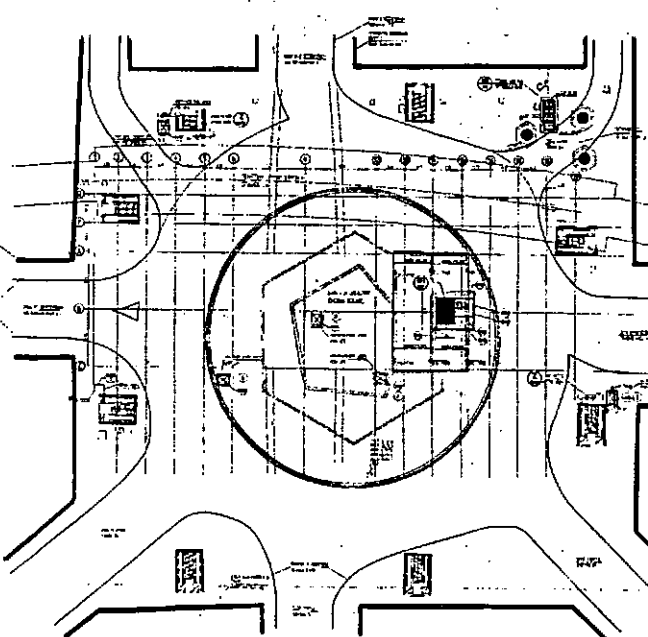
As Omonia was once an amusement and recreation center in Athens, and in the center of many movements, as being near the train and bus stations, its café's were always very vivid and meeting places of people coming from the province.

Some of these became famous, such as "Neon", "Hellas", "Zacharatou-Kaperoni" etc, having a cosmopolitan atmosphere, where political conversations were held.

However, these cafés were operating mostly in their interior space, which was highly decorated, expressing the European bourgeois trends of the period prior to World War II.



455. Omonia Square today with various building types and Metro's air outlet
(source: author's collection)



456. Omonia Square today with various building types and Metro's air outlet
author's collection)



457. A new Department store in Omonia Square, replacing "Omonia" Hotel (source:
author's photograph)

Coffee shops, dairy and pastry shops etc, were installed on the ground floor of the neoclassical buildings.

The first café in Omonia was “Solonion” established in 1849 before the square’s formation.

Within the past 40 years the square has significantly changed as the pedestrian circulation was transferred to perimetric sidewalks, and the square lost its vital central space.

At the same period, Omonia’s significance started to decline and traditional coffees were replaced by small retail shops of any kind, and fast food restaurants.

However, the “Neon” Café was preserved and recently has been completely renewed though keeping some of the old features.

Unfortunately, the vitality of the open-air café’s sitting as meeting places is no longer in existence. As a result, that concentration and vitality has been lost in the traffic.

4.2.4. Proposals for the future

In the years to come, Omonia Square will be reformed according to the 1st prize (M. Katsika, A. Vozani, Gr. Dessylas and Th. Tsiatas) of the Architectural Competition held in 1999, in the context of projection of city's physiognomy's.

According to a proposal by a Ministry's study for the circulation, the round circulation in the square will be changed and the car flow from Panepistimiou Street will only go towards 3rd Septemvriou and Ag. Konstantinou Streets.

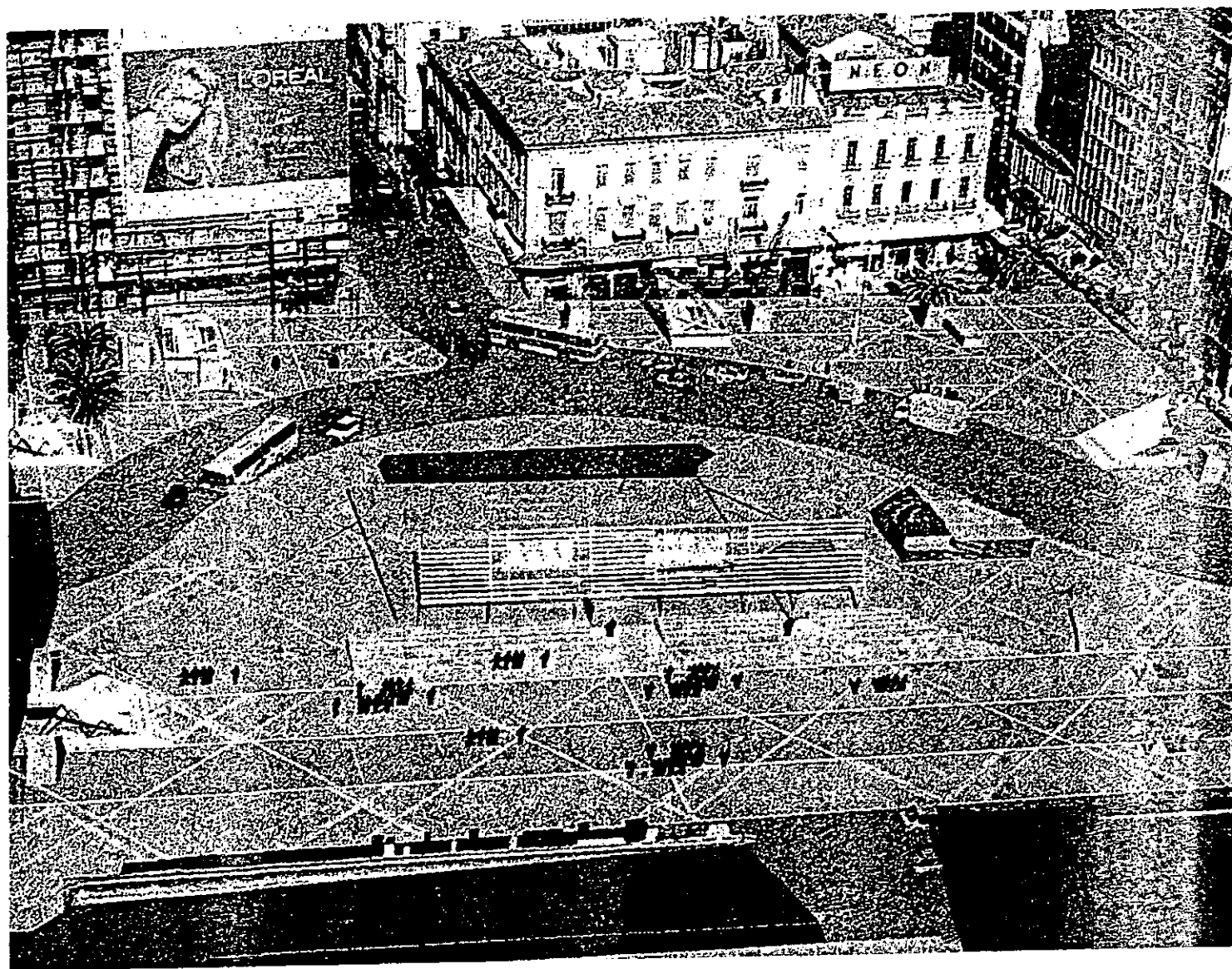
Besides, the flow from Pireos Street will only go towards Athinas Street and Stadiou Street.

This will create a continuity of the central point of the square to the sidewalks of Panepistimiou, Stadiou, Pireos and Ag. Konstantinou Streets, and will be attributed to pedestrians.

According to the architectural proposal, a small amphitheatrical sitting place will be crated, facing the Acropolis, with a giga-screen behind it for information projections, combined with a canopy over the sitting.

The whole scene will be completed by a pool with a sitting bench around it.

The proposal although having a strong concept, ignores all historical and social parameters, creating an interesting space without any references to spaces' features and physiognomy.



459. Omonia Square as it will be after its reformation according to 1st prize proposal
(source: Unification of Archaeological sites SA)

4.3. PIREOS STREET

4.3.1. Structural and Functional dimension

4.3.1.1. Location of the street in the Urban Structure

Pireos Street is a particularly important street, as it connects Athens' center (Omonia) with the port city of Piraeus, having a north east – south west direction.

Being in almost the same place from the ancient times, it presents, despite the changes in its history, a significant continuity in its position and role.

In the history of modern Athens city, Pireos Street was proposed by the first Town Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert as one of the principal roads of the new town, connecting Omonia Square with the center of Piraeus.

The various regions along Pireos Street have quite different characters.

4.3.1.2. Relationships with the Urban environment

Pireos Street is an axis of 15km long, connecting two significant poles, Omonia Square and Piraeus' center, on which important space areas natural elements, buildings and complexes are articulated:

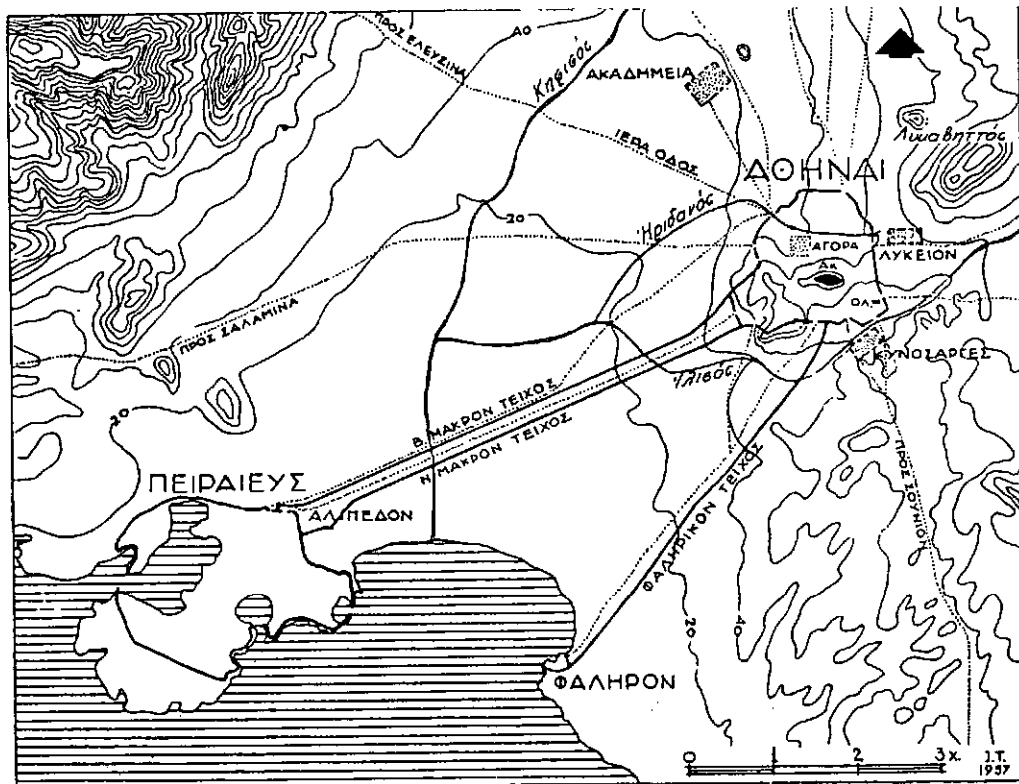
The most significant of these are, Koumoundourou Square, Keramikos area (the ancient cemetery), Gazi (the old gas production), Fine Arts High School, Kifissos River, Vegetables' Market, Industrial installations, Athletic installations and the Port of Piraeus. There are also Public Services, Office buildings, manufactural installations, etc.

Pireos Street passes through five Municipalities of Athens' basin: Athens, Tavros, Ag. Ioannis Rentis, Moschato and Piraeus.

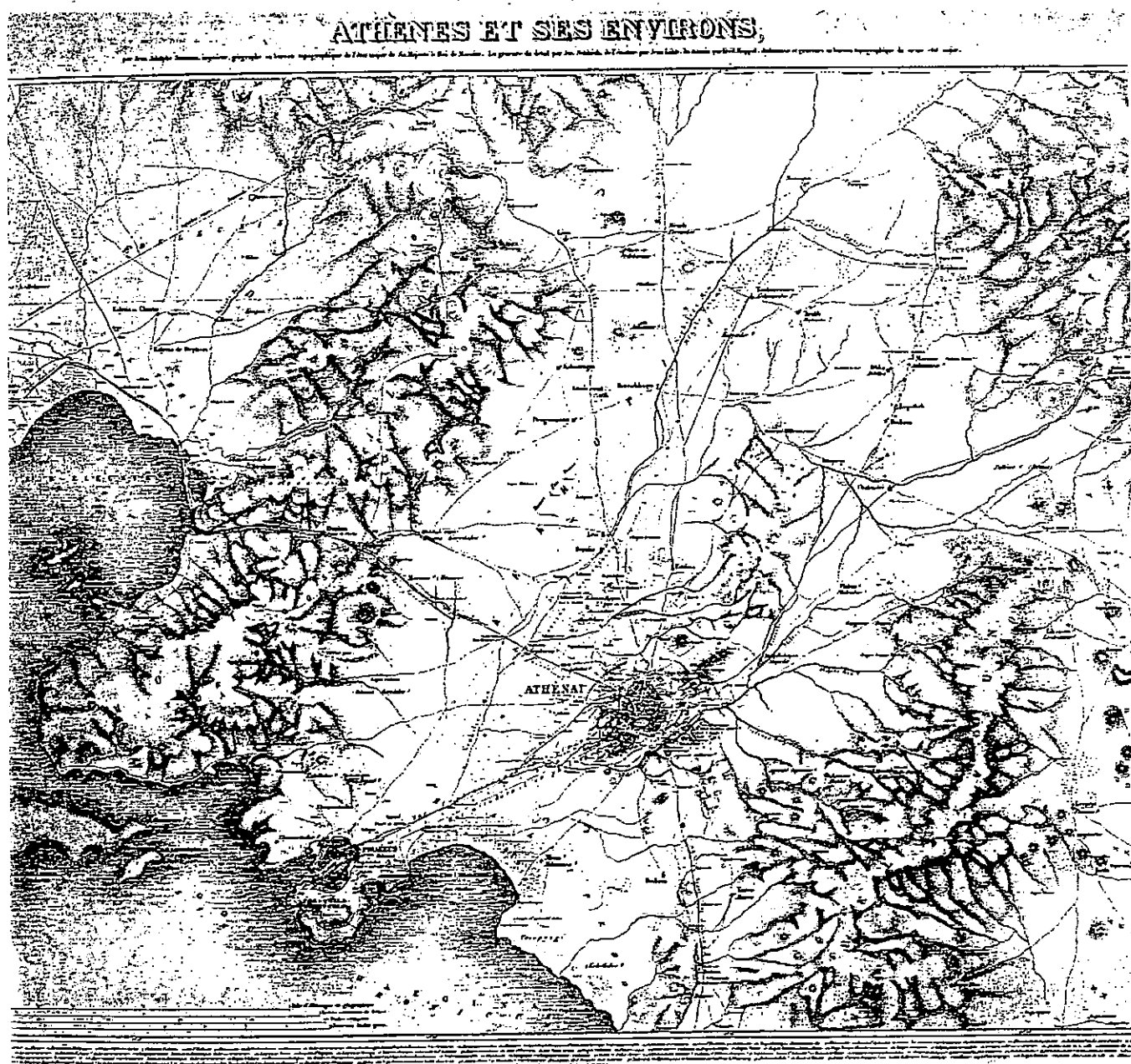
By a Royal Decree, the first industrial area in Greece was defined and in 1845 the first steam-powered factory operated.

The railway connection between Athens and Piraeus for the first time operated in 1869. Since then, Piraeus and consequently Pireos Street, had a rapid industrial development.

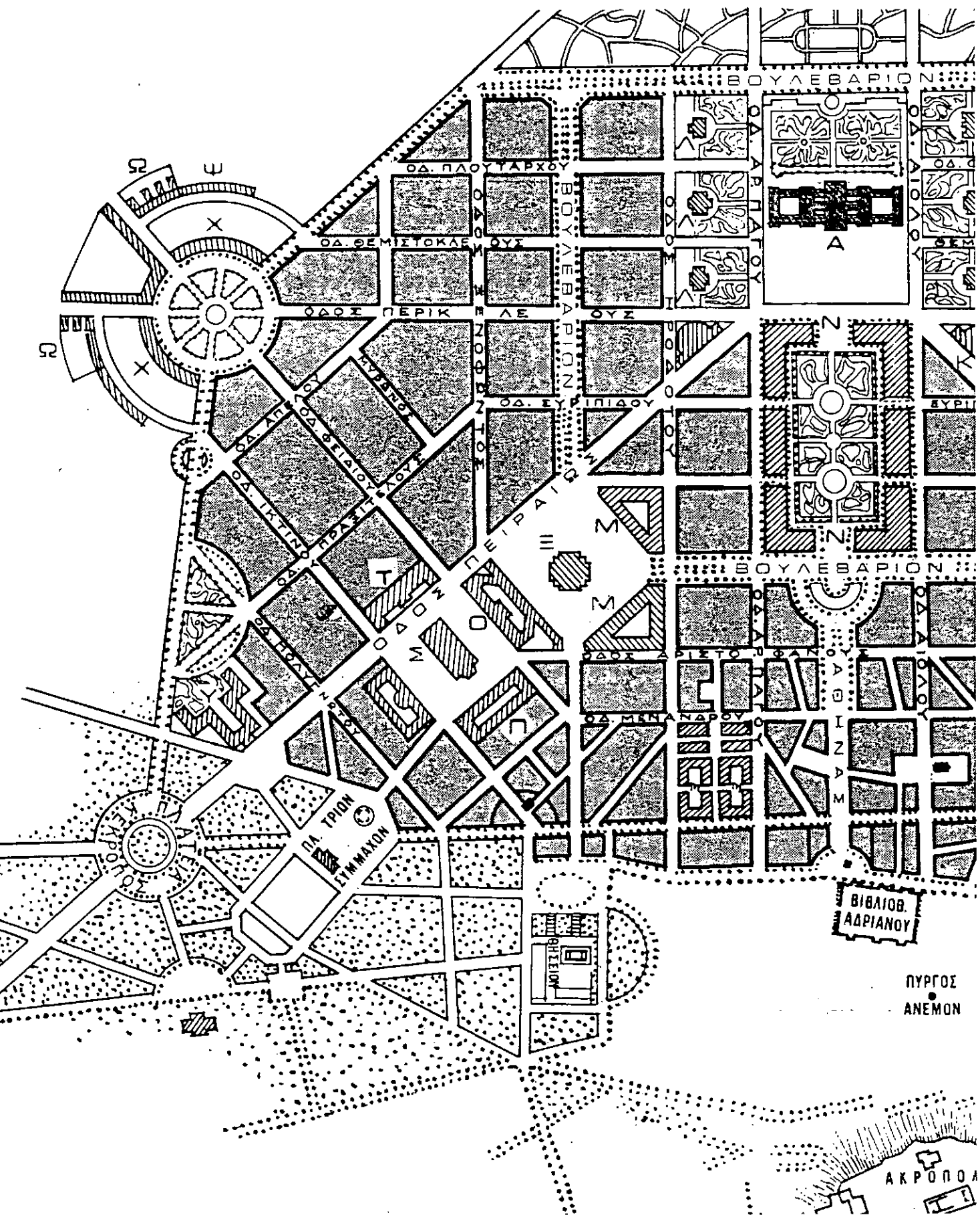
Until the construction of the railway Athens – Patras (1892), Piraeus remained the main entrance gate to Greece from Europe.



460. The "Long Walls" connecting Athens' city with Piraeus port, in the 5th century B.C. (source: Travlos 1993)



461. Map of Athens and its surroundings (J. Sommer 1841, source: Bavarian State Library)



462. Pireos street and the "Third Square" (Kekropos) in Kleanthis - Schaubert plan (1834) (source: Biris 1996)



463. Pireos street, connecting Omonia Square and the Royal Palace in Keramikos' area, according to L. von Klenze (1834) (source: Biris 1996)

Keramikos area with its calm – natural environment and archaeological remains, is contrasted by Gazi, the once busy (and dirty) gas production with its interesting 19th century industrial installations.

At the point of contact of Keramikos with Pireos Street and Iera Odos, a large Orthodox Church and a trolleys' Depot have been constructed, at the expense of Keramikos area.

The sequence of various factories of all periods and architectural industrial styles are interrupted by the crossing with Kifissos River and its natural environment and the large avenue leading to National Road towards Salonica, and Piraeus to the other side and the cultural Pole of the Fine Arts High School.

Pireos Street is also intersected with some of the principal axes of the western region, such as Hamosternas, connecting with other major city's areas.

4.3.1.3. Functions

The area near Omonia Square has mixed commercial and manufacture uses, including hotels and office buildings, as well as apartment buildings and houses from the neoclassical period, many of them being abandoned.

This area is succeeded by the archaeological areas including Keramikos and Iera Odos, mixed with some manufacture and residential uses. This area is followed by the industrial area, which is extending along Pireos Street, with a number of cultural and recreational functions interfering in the scene.

Besides, there are working class residential areas in the vicinity of Iera Odos (Gazi, Metaxourgion).

During the last decade of the 19th century, a systematic building-up of Pireos Street with factories began and it was continued during the first half of the 20th century, the important of these, being, Chropei, (chemical), Ivi (alcohol), Elais (olive oil), Elma (linseed oil), Pavlidis (chocolates), various ironsmith's shops, carpenter's shops, Tan-yards, Gavriil and Rokas (spinning mills), etc.

During the mid-war period there were also new factories, as Exma, Oliva, Adelco (chemicals), Greek Metallurgy (metals), Viohalco (metal pipes), Viosol (plumbing installations), Sikiaridio, etc

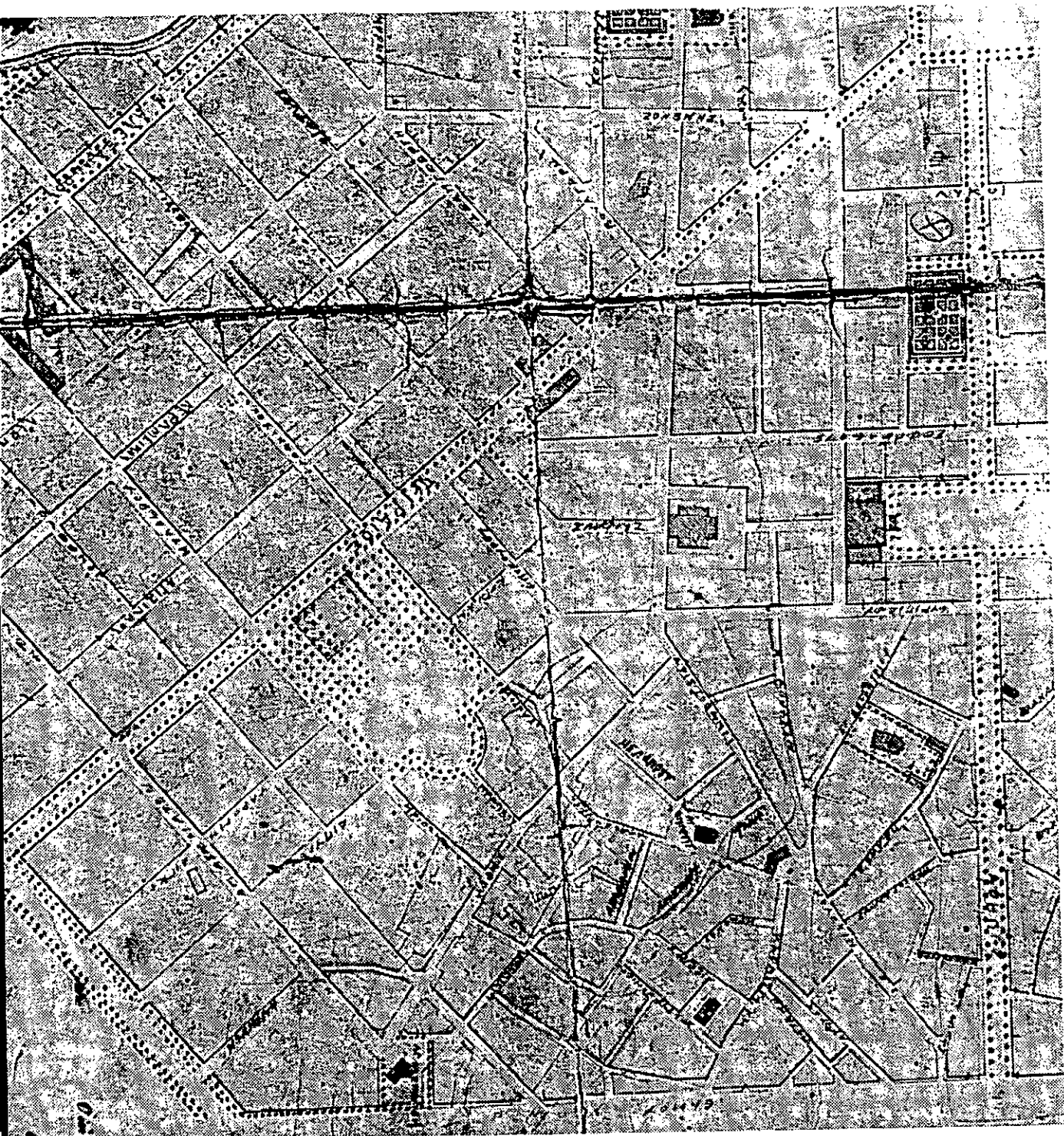
In the post-war period new factories were founded, as Chalivourgiki (metals), Lux (electric bulbs), Sanitas (aluminum foils), etc.

PLAN ATHENES

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464. Piraeus street and Koumoundourou Square (Place de Louis) according to Chevanard (1843) (source: Biris 1996)



465. Pireos street as a boulevard and Koumoundourou Square, according to a Plan
(1864) (source: Biris 1996)



466. Piraeus street and Koumoundourou Square according to "1847 Committee"

(source: Biris 1996)

The industrial area, which once was a well functioning region was developed and formed on the basis of the transport network, with Pireos Street as the main axis, is now in transition.

It has become partly an urban fringe area, with many industrial uses continuing to operate and others becoming vacant and replaced, either by other update industrial productions, or by elegant cultural and recreational functions, which are organized within the old structures.

Pireos Street is in the center of today city's development issues and questioning.

On the one hand it is an interesting axis connecting important public spaces, and on the other, it is undergoing rapid development and change of its character.

Pireos Street's image today is that of downgrading and dereliction, composed of the bad appearance of a number of these factories, the great number of open yards with old materials, the heavy circulation of lorries, the occupancy of the front spaces along the street for material storage, the giga-posters, the lack of Open Public Spaces and Green Spaces etc.

Pireos Street area is a complex urban structure on the level of functions, as well as on the level of its role and space forms in today's city's environment.

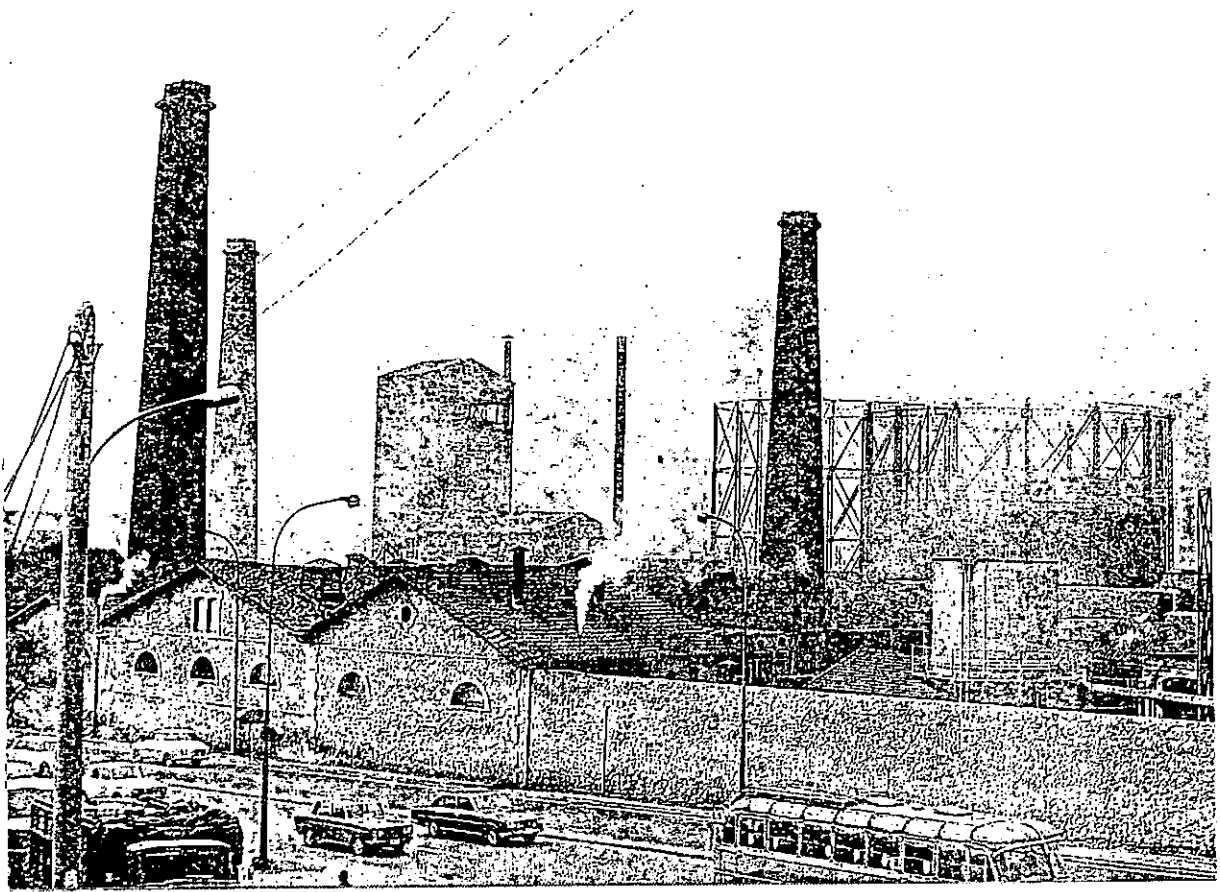
Today's Pireos Streets' physiognomy includes many antithetical images, related to different periods and styles.

4.3.1.4. Traffic

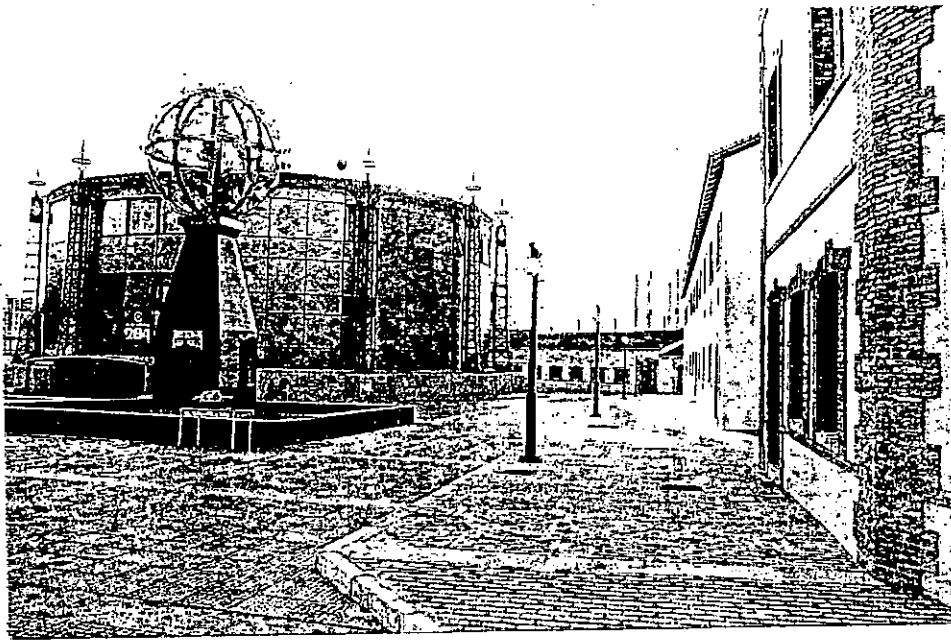
Due to its role to serve industrial areas and position connecting two cities, Pireos Street is usually overloaded with all kind of vehicle, mostly lorries, which usually are in traffic jam, due to streets insufficiency.

Except for an elementary layout, Pireos Street has not been especially designed for its purpose and position.

Moreover, pedestrian circulation has not been prevented, as sidewalks are lacking in many places.



467. Gazi, the gas factory, when it was operating, until the '80s (source: author's collection)



468. Gazi after its reformation as a Municipality's Cultural Center (source: author's photograph)

4.3.2. Semantic dimension

4.3.2.1. Significance and meaning to the city

The significance of Pireos Street was estimated since the ancient times, therefore, the city walls were enclosing also the way connecting Athens and Piraeus in its whole length (Long Walls).

From all streets of the new town (in 1834), it was the first constructed, (stone paved) as it connected the capital with the Port and through it, with the rest of the county, no other transportation means existing, except for boats. This construction facilitated the transportation of materials for the construction of the first building in Athens.

The area along Pireos Street, surrounding Omonia Square and Koumoundourou (Eleftherias) Square, up to Keramikos area, used to be an upper and middle class residential area, with elegant neoclassical houses.

The area would have a quite different evolution if L. von Klenze's proposal had been applied, with the Palace in Keramikos area.

The installation of Gazi factory has surely been a decisive factor to the areas' urban development.

In Kleanthis – Schaubert, Pireos Street was a linear way, but in Klenze's reformation of the Plan, it was proposed the road to bend after Keramikos and meet the ancient way, in order to avoid to cut agrarian lands.

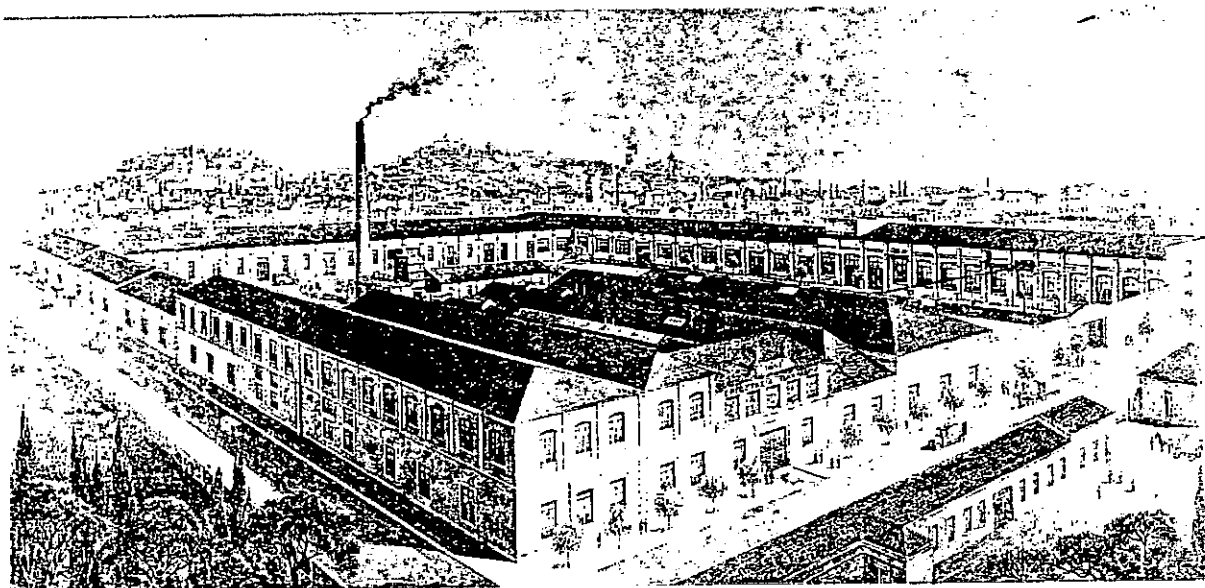
This axis which had been created in the antiquity, remained a connection way between Athens and the Port, even after the walls' destruction by the Spartans.

When Pireos Street was constructed, a fabric was gradually created by the development of the area with industries, manufactures, residences, Public Installations and other productive units, which were articulated on this axis.

These areas, surrounding Pireos axis were, since the beginning, oriented, from the economic and administrative point of view, to Piraeus.

Nowadays, the irregular development of these downgraded areas, in relation to the especially heavy circulation of Pireos Street, weakens the perceptual and functional significance of the Piraeus – Acropolis axis.

Moreover, the differentiated evolution of the western and eastern regions created unbalanced relationships in the context of Attica Basins' development.



469. The chocolate factory "Pavlidis" on Pireos street, in 1920 (source: private collection)



470. "Sikiaridio" factory now operating as Fine Arts High School (source: author's photograph)

The growth of new centers of regional development in the broader area gradually caused the slackening of the ties between the Port and Athens.

As Piraeus has become one of the biggest Mediterranean Ports, a junction of national and international transportations, it cannot be serviced by Pireos Street and its connection with the international road network is necessary.

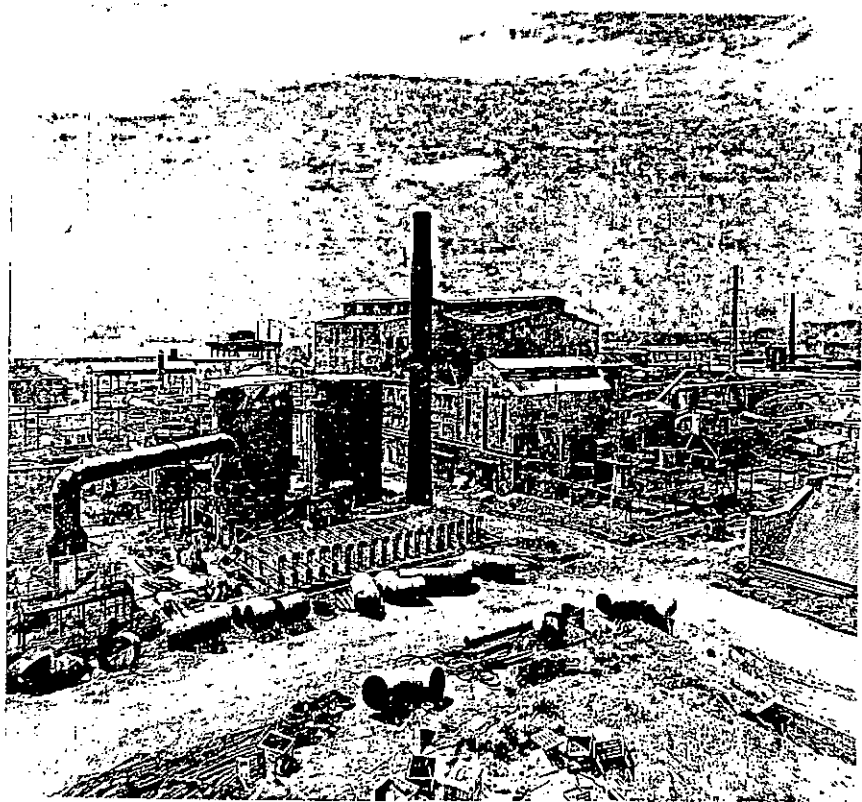
Along Pireos Street, the historical development of industrial installations has been incorporated, i.e. from the industrial buildings of 1850, the neoclassical of the beginning of 20th century, these of the mid-war period, of the '50s, to the recent ones.

Pireos Street is a mosaic of buildings of various types and uses, many of which have become obsolete.

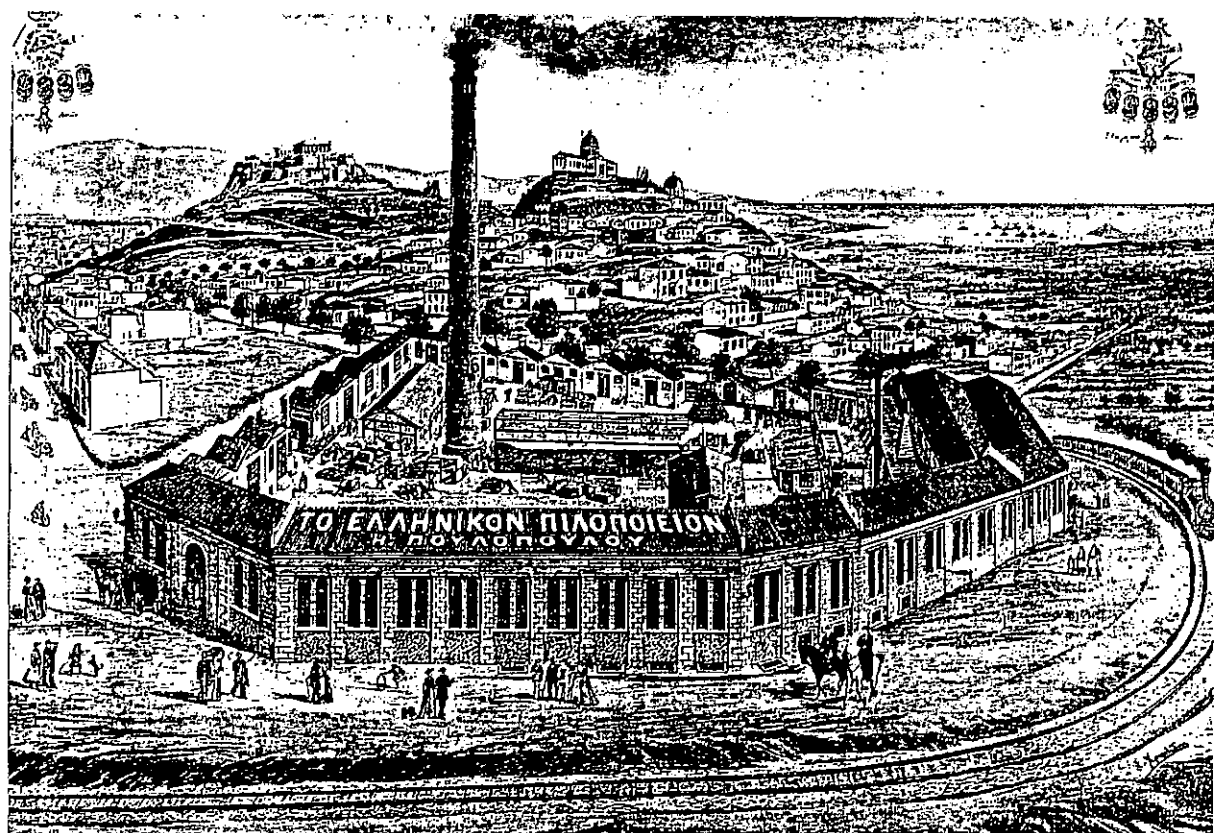
The de-industrialization, which occurred during the last two decades, caused many factories to stop operating and thus, created abandoned building shells and vacant – empty plots, making Pireos Street an area expressing the industrial crisis.

In the recent 15 years there were attempts by private initiatives to re-use these areas, converting them mainly into cultural and recreational complexes, such as theatres, music bars, restaurant, exhibition galleries etc.

Besides, the relationships of Pireos Street with significant archaeological areas, such as Keramikos and Iera Odos, which have been included in the program for the Unification of Archaeological Sites and the related space formations, provide, along with the cultural and recreational functions, a new, more complex character of Pireos Street.



471. Fertilizers' Production in Piraeus in the '60s (source: Bodossaki Foundation)



472. The factory "Pouloupoulos" from which only its right wing is remaining (source: ELIA)

4.3.3. Structure of the Space

4.3.3.1. Topography, Shape

The area of Keramikos – Gazi is at the lowest level (45.00m. in comparison to 70.00m. of Omonia), not only today but also in the antiquity.

Therefore, it ever was only a cultivated agrarian land, free from buildings, and the point where Eleonas started.

Pireos Street is a long multifunctional street connecting Athens (Omonia Square with Piraeus.

In ancient times it was a linear street, going across a natural environment different than the present one.

The sea was covering the southern region of the plain, nearing Moschato area and part of the plain was a slough (Alipedo). When the Long Walls were constructed they provided protected and unobstacled communication with Piraeus. During the centuries, Kifissos River land filled the slough by alluvium.

However, the direction of the ancient axis, which was related with the natural shape of the ancient Port (Kantharos), coincided with the axis of Pireos Street proposed by Kleanthis and Schaubert.

In Klenze's plan the street's linear geometry was changed, in order to avoid reactions by landowners.

Pireos Street in the first Town Plan was defined by the general geometry of the Plan, being one of the sides of the Triangle, its first part related with significant elements of the city:

Pireos Street meets, at 45° angle, Athinas Street at Omonia Square, Koumoundourou Square, being on Pireos Street, was connected with its symmetrical Klafthmonos Square through Evripidou "boulevard", Ermou Street connected Pireos Street in the area of "Third Square" with Syntagma Square.

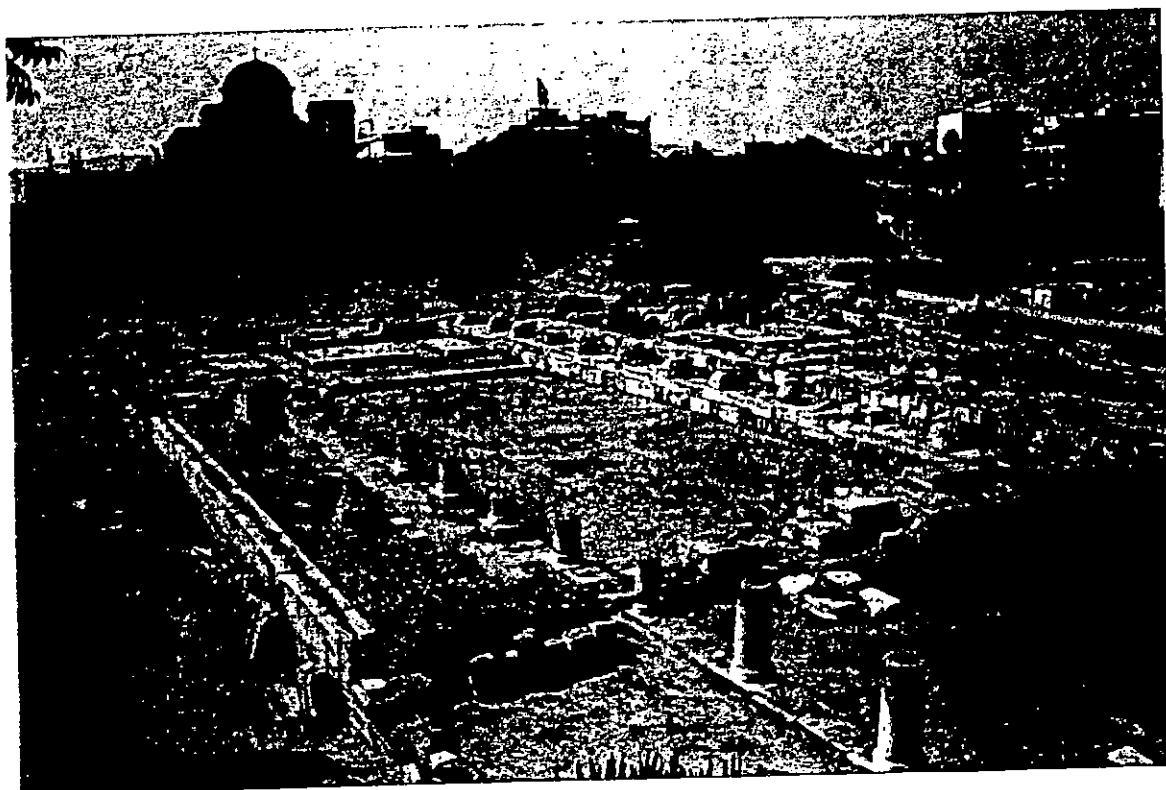
4.3.3.2. Elements

Except for its basic relationships with the Town Plan form which was generated, the basic structural characteristic of Pireos Street is that it is a "line" connecting two poles: Athens city and Piraeus.

The second characteristic is that on this axis, significant places, areas and other elements (such as Kifissos River) are articulated.



473. Industrial building units of 19th century (source: author's photograph)



474. Keramikos' area (source: author's photograph)

Pireos Street is an important Public Space, because except for its main functional purpose i.e. transportation, it connects significant Open Public Spaces with intense public use and significance, which consist its Elements Places:

4.3.3.3. Koumoundourou (Liberty's) Square

Liberty Square (Eleftherias or Louis' Square during Otto's period, later also called Koumoundourou Square, due to Prime Minister's residence at this place) is one of the first squares proposed in the first Town Plan by Kleanthis – Schaubert, with Public buildings on it, and was maintained in the Klenze's Plan with a church in its center and its today's form.

In the latter, this square acquired significance, being near the Palace, which was proposed in Keramikos area.

The productive zone of the city, historically installed in the broader region since the Turkish occupancy, was expanding westwards, defining the character of west districts.

The installation of a silk factory (1852) and the Gas production factory (1859) attracted residential areas with relevant names (Metaxourgio, Gazohori), while the middle classes remained in the area.

In 1860, the Public Nursery building was installed on square's front to Pireos Street, which today is the Municipality's Art Gallery and the square is formed and paved in 1868, with residences surrounding it.

The square was reformed in 1929, with a radial layout and a pool in the center, while a café was installed behind the Public Nursery building.

In 1970, the Square was reformed once again, with the demolition of various small a new layout and plantation.

Today Koumoundourou Square it is a popular square of the district, a reference point for the broader area, with many bus terminals.

Its social role has changed, as it is frequented and used mostly by economic emigrants from Eastern European and Asian countries who live in its vicinity.

An Architectural Competition was held in 1999, for the formation of Koumoundourou square. The first prize proposed the formation of the square's space as a valley with water elements, in remembrance of Kyklovoros river which was passing through this are, with green zones and a bridge connecting the two long sides



475. Pireos street (source: author's photograph)



476. Pireos street (source: author's photograph)

of the square. Although interesting and original this proposal has nothing in common with the area's history and development, a nice image irrelevant to the real space.

4.3.3.4. The Gazi factory

The Gazi factory was installed in the area in 1859, and was one of the first large factories of the new State, which became the symbol of the 19th century industrial installations, with its mental constructions and high chimneys. It was a Municipality's enterprise and provided gas to the old city of Athens.

Gazi factory attracted a working class residential area in its vicinity (Gazohori) which along with Metaxourgion, was the basis of such working class residential areas in the western industrial region.

It stopped to operate in the '70s and in the '80s was converted into a multi use space of cultural activities, by the Municipality of Athens to which it belongs.

4.3.3.5. Keramikos area

Keramikos area is the archaeological site with the ancient cemetery, from which significant axes started, such as Iera Odos (Sacred Way) leading to Elefsis and its sanctuary and Dimossio Sima (Public Sign), the Public Road leading from Dipylo to Plato's Academy, at the sides of which the distinguished citizens were buried.

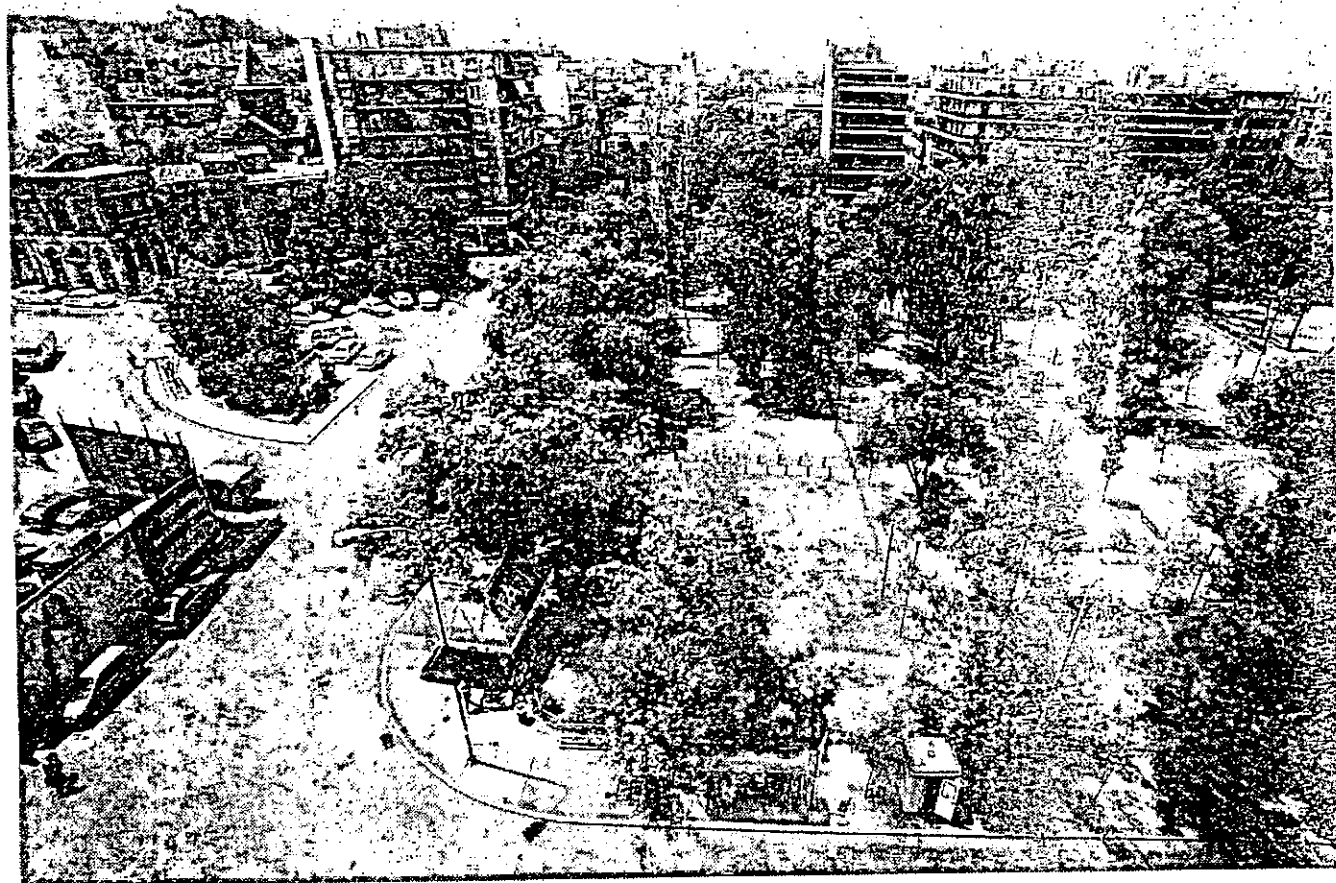
It is an archaeological Park with intense landscape variety and excellent sculptures. However, its Museum is small and the items not well exhibited.

Moreover, Keramikos is a kind of biotope including Iridanos River. Thission railway station is a convenient access to it.

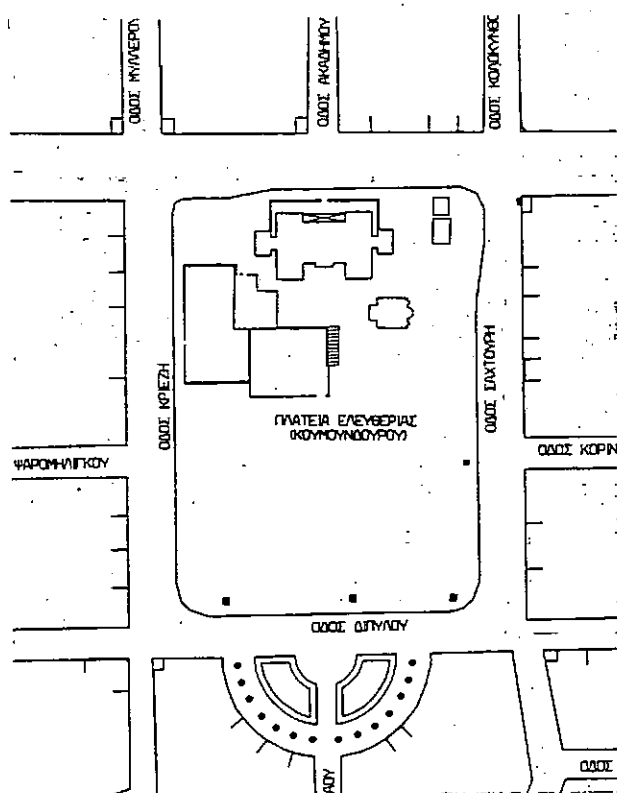
There are possibilities of archaeological site's expansion towards the railway station area and on the other side of Pireos Street, by elevating Pireos Street.

The partial unification of Keramikos and the Ancient Agora area is also feasible and also necessary, as it would create a space continuity of the ancient landscape.

The pedestrianization of Iera Odos and the continuation of Dimossio Sima up to Plato's Academy has been proposed by many studies.



477. The upper part of Koumoundourou Square, with the "Crescent", towards Keramikos area (source: author's photograph)



478. Plan of Koumoundourou Square as is today (source: author's collection)

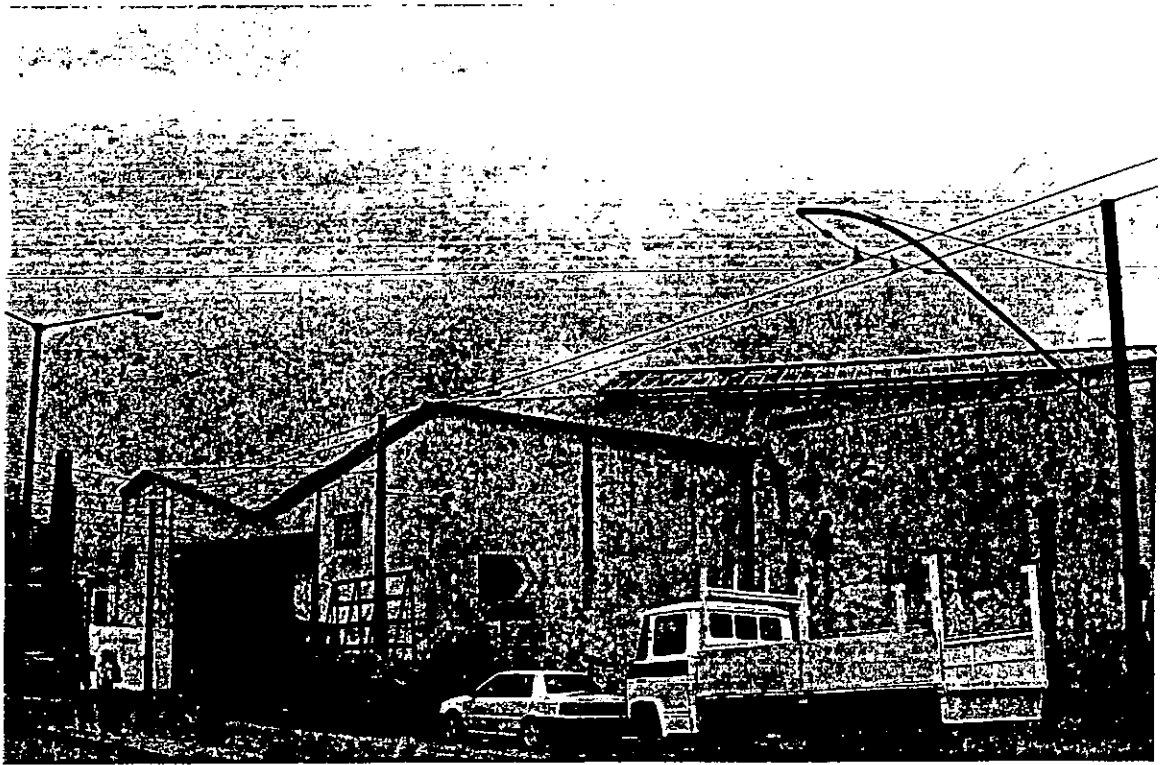
4.3.3.6. The Third Square

The Third Square (or Keramikos Square) was proposed by the Town Plan of 1834 by Kleanthis and Schaubert as symmetrical to Syntagma Square, to which was connected through Ermou Street, but it was never constructed.

In 1998, an Architectural Competition for the formation of the “Third Square” was held.

The proposal by the 1st prize was of an unusual linear rectangular shape on the axis of Hiraklidou Street perpendicular to Pireos Street, a urban void of a symbolic character, attempting to offer a pluralistic space composition to the citizens for social contact and expression.

The “Square-Street” consists a bridge for the unification of Thission Regions, with Gazi and the Western districts.



479. The Trolley's Terminal on Pireos and Ermou steets (source: author's photograph)



480. The Trolley's Terminal on Pireos and Ermou steets (source: author's photograph)

4.3.4. Proposals for the future

There is a necessity for the consideration of Pireos Street as an integrated way, with projection of its special points which are interesting and stimulating.

The aims of the study by the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works for the reformation of Pireos Street, are:

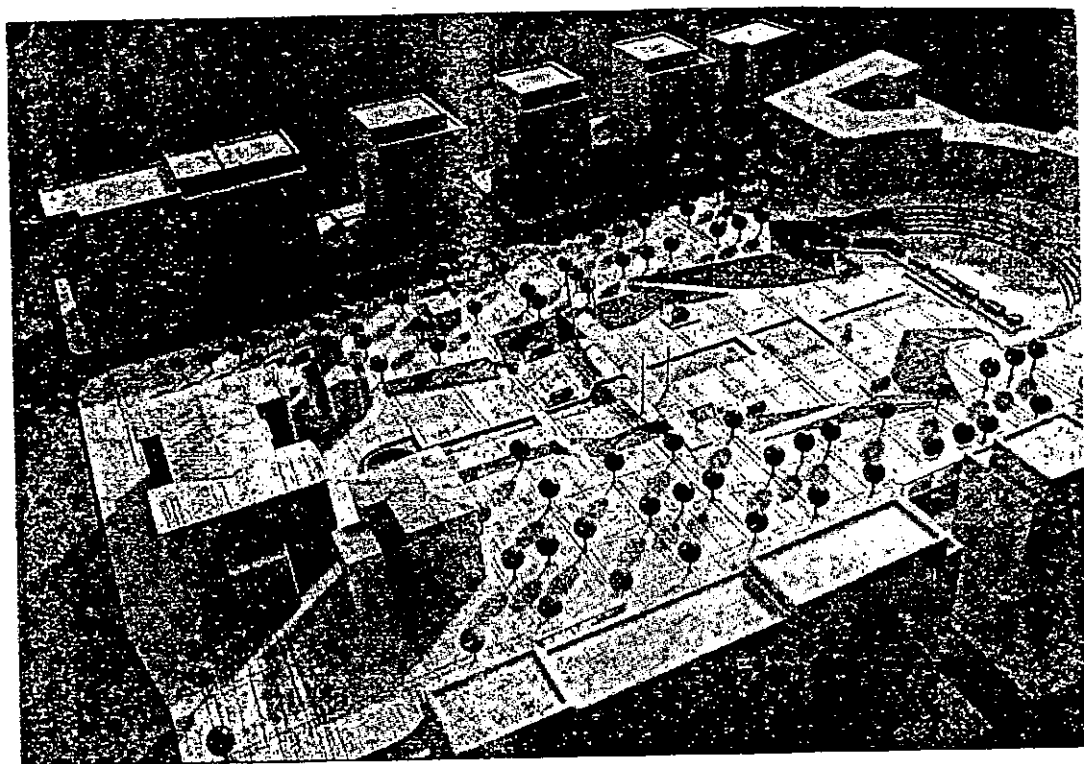
- The projection of its historical significance and identity
88 buildings have already declared as preservable
- The aesthetic upgrading of its architecture and physiognomy.
- The preservation protection and exploitation of its building wealth.
- The possible partial changes of the streets' character by incorporating cultural and recreational elements.

This should be attempted with the removal of troublesome uses, the projection of the archaeological sites in the area of Koumoundourou, Keramikos, Long Walls, projection of Public Spaces with cultural interest, as the Fine Arts High School and Gazi.

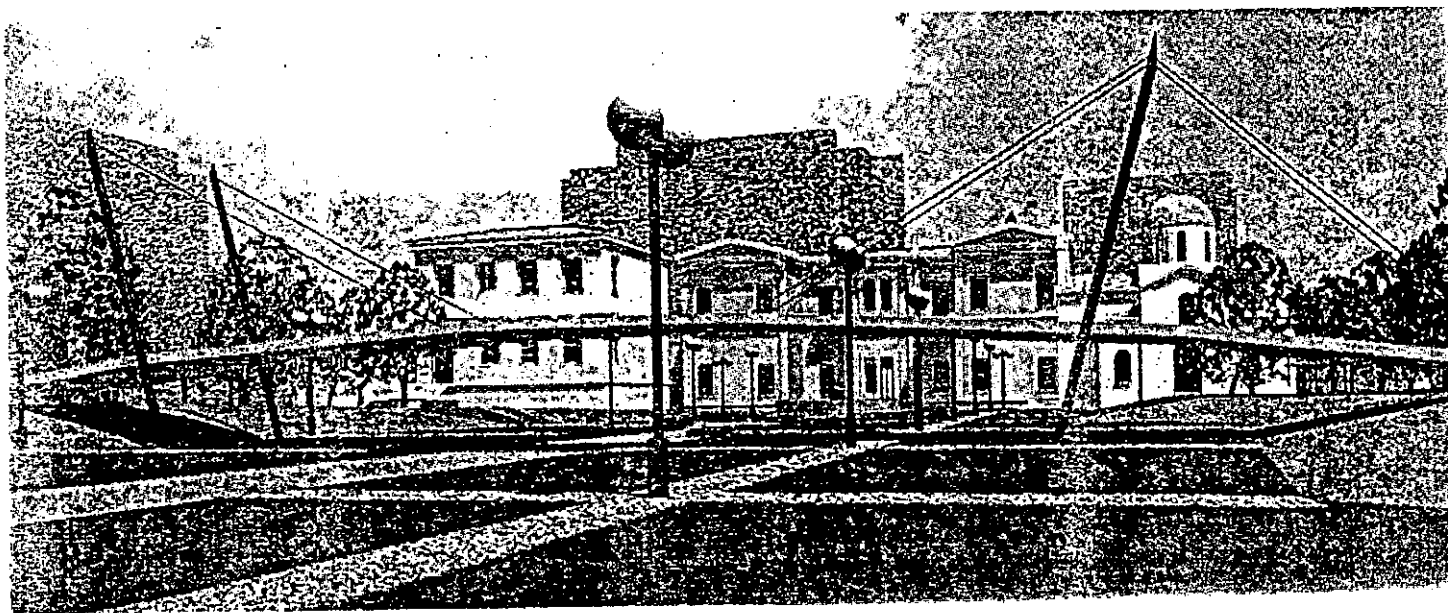
Connection with other spaces in the vicinity of Pireos which are under study circulation arrangement and creation of new Open Public Spaces in certain places.

The interventions will refer to:

- Koumoundourou Square (removal of bus terminals, recreation of the crescent on the south side etc).
- Keramikos area (removal of the trolleys' Depot, projection of the archaeological site from Pireos Street, creation of information center, demolition of some buildings in its vicinity).
- Iera Odos (Sacred Way) (pedestrianization and formation of relevant Open Spaces).
- Sarafio Swimming Center (expansion of the Open Space to two building blocks, projection of interesting buildings).
- "Third Square" of Kleanthis – Schaubert Plan (construction of this significant Public Space)
- Hamosternas junction (organization of a zone of Green Spaces – recreation and sports).



481. Koumoundourou Square as it will be after its reformation, according to the 1st prize proposal (source: Unification of Archaeological sites SA)



482. Koumoundourou Square as it will be after its reformation, according to the 1st prize proposal (source: Unification of Archaeological sites SA)

- Sikiaridio – Fine Arts High School (information center at the point of bending of the street, exploitation of the factory's buildings as cultural exhibitions and formation of the yard's space for relevant events).
- Kifissos River (creation of a zone of recreation, sports and cultural activities, use of Sanitas installations).
- Chropi – Elais (new uses in the old shells).
- End of Pireos Street – Lambraki junction (creation of new green areas and use of worthmentionning old buildings).

All the above interventions aim to the projection of street's lost identity and space quality, while troublesome uses will be removed from the area.

There is also a proposal for the creation of Lyric Theater (Opera) at the intersection of Iera Odos and Pireos street a function which is completely unsuitable in the vicinity of an archaeological space with the significance of Keramikos.

In the near future, large traffic works, such as Hamosternas' flyovers and Stavrou-Elefsis avenue, will free Pireos street considerably from lorries' traffic while the Decree concerning new land uses in the area includes small hostels, commercial uses, restaurants and cafeterias, cultural centers, educational buildings, children playgrounds, parking lots etc., will change the character of Pireos Street. Besides big commercial companies, such as Nike, Glou, Colgate etc. have already moved to Pireos street.

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION OF THE ATHENIAN OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

5.1. Critical Appraisal of Athens' Open Public Spaces

5.1.1. The Significance and the Role of the Open Public Spaces in the city of Athens.

The Assessment of quality of an Open Public Space usually is attempted in reference to certain factors related to :

- evaluation of needs' servicings
- evaluation of Spaces' aesthetics
- evaluation of life quality
- evaluation of historical continuity and development
- environmental pollution
- other annoyances (noise, etc)
- evaluation of environmental quality (eg. Built environment, greenery, labels, advertisements etc).

Such a set of factors is a society's model, as it incorporates values, ideals and aims. Therefore, it is difficult to find measurable elements, due to the existing complexity in the evaluation of assessment systems and lifestyles.

This is especially difficult in pluralistic societies such, as the contemporary society, which presents values' overlappings and its assessment system is only partially understandable.

The urban significance of the Open Public Spaces in the city of Athens as well as their modifications and conversions have already been mentioned.

The psychological significance is related to psychological needs of the inhabitants, attended by the Open Public Spaces, as,

- contact with fellow – human beings
- contact with nature
- games and movement
- retirement from the urban reality (noise, built up areas of high density etc).

The conclusion from the study of the development of the city of Athens since 1833, is that the majority of the proposed Urban Plans have been left without any continuity, due to social, political and economic reasons :

- The various General Building Regulations issued, were related to the governmental policy about the housing problem, and tended to offer services to the speculation by land owners and contractors, as the increase of building heights, and of the plot rates coefficients, and the incorporation of new areas to the Town Plan etc.
- The main interest has been almost always turned to the private property than to the Public Spaces and the Town Planning proposals.
- The automobile played a significant negative role and dominated over the Open Public Spaces of the city.

However, recently, new requests by the inhabitants are considering the need for Open Public Spaces' quality, the stopping of their downgrading, (pollution, circulation etc.) and the improvement of the related situations.

The spirit in the concept of the first Urban Plan of Athens was more generous, as it provided more, larger, and better Open Public Spaces for the city, such as squares, roads and green areas.

Despite the reduction of these spaces, caused by landowners' reactions and the interventions by the State, these spaces were still adequate in size and quality, for a capital of a small size, and a moderate rate of population increase.

Open Public Spaces of the Central areas of the City, remained as they had originally been planned, despite all efforts to cancel them, or decrease their size, aiming to the benefit of building activity and the private property.

On the contrary, the peripheral districts, which had been constructed without any Town Planning, in arbitrary ways, are characterized by the lack of Open Public Spaces of sufficient number and size.

5.1.2. Use and life of the Athenian Open Public Spaces.

Except for the central Open Public Spaces and a few other cases, in which a certain quality of space has been achieved, due to their importance in the city, the majority of the other Public Spaces are not successful results of thorough

Architectural and Landscape design. They have been produced occasionally, in order to serve the ordinary needs of the inhabitants, or be adapted to the everyday life of the relevant area (commerce, recreation, rest, amusement) to which they correspond with multi – functionality but without the incorporation of a design concept.

Athens' Open Public Spaces, and especially the squares can be divided to :

- “functional” Open Public Spaces, usually squares, and streets, which after a long time of adaptation to city life, have attracted various functions in the perimeter or in the center of the space
- “non functional” squares, i.e. open spaces with no particular use which have not been purpose built, and they function as urban voids, not being regarded as attraction points for the inhabitants.

Open Public Spaces in Athens are used mostly by elderly people (27%), and by mothers (27,5%) using the benches, by small children (20,7%), using the playground area or the square's space for their play, and by youngsters (spending their time in pastry shops and Cafeterias). (Tsironi 1989).

According to their every day use and life, the squares can be divided to :

- Family squares, used mostly by mothers and children with a playground area and place for rest
- “Youth squares”, with cafeterias etc, frequented by young people.
- Central squares with multiple functions as commercial, administrative, etc, surrounded by streets with heavy circulation. They are mostly “passing through” areas and also meeting points.
- Cosmopolitan squares, with many cafes, restaurants, mostly consisting spaces for appointments social contacts etc. (e.g. Kolonaki square).

The appropriation of the squares by certain social groups is a positive fact, showing the success and the usefulness of this space.

In most of these spaces, the life, the character and the atmosphere are predominant and they are determined by consumption functions, such as commercial units (shops for food, clothes, utilitarian items, etc) and leisure (restaurants, cafeterias, pastry shops, fast food etc).

The results from a survey in squares of Athens, indicate that an average of 25,7% of squares, are almost totally occupied by tables and chairs of such shops.

Also in some commercial streets of the districts of Athens, the sidewalks are occupied by items exposed for sale by the adjacent commercial shops.

Commerce and the related consumption used on the basis of free economies in today's world, and is one of the basic functions of Open Public Spaces, providing vividness to them and to the city.

However, these functions in Athens are often exaggerated and operate at the expense of the Open Public Space and other functions, and spaces.

Given the narrow sidewalks of Athenian streets, the heavy traffic on roads and the various obstacles on pedestrian streets (flower pots, advertisement's and information elements, lighting posts, motorbikes parking etc) reverting even the free walking, there should be a balance between all these necessary functions by better layout arrangements and may be stipulations.

5.1.3. The allocation of Open Public Spaces of Athens

The use and the everyday life of the Open Public Spaces, and especially of the squares, is related to their position in the city.

According to their importance and their space relations with the center of the city, or the districts in which they belong, the Open Public Spaces can be separated in:

- local centers, (local squares), which are appropriated by the inhabitants, due to their small distance from the residences, through an every day practice of social groups from the close neighborhoods.
- Over local centers (central squares) of the city core, which are addressed to the inhabitants of the whole city, due to the type of services it offers (over local commerce, recreation, mainly for adults, and usually with high circulation flow).

Examples : Omonia square, Klafthmonos square.

The meaning "center" is referring to a pole of attraction for users and functions, due to the type of services it offers, either on a district level or on the level of the whole city.

These centers may be of a commercial, administrative, historic, religious, cultural , as well as seasonal, occasional or permanent character. In the cultural area of Municipality of Athens, 47% of administrative, cultural, educational, commercial, health recreational etc functions, of entire Athens are concentrated. Beyond this area, Central Functions are extended on radial arteries of Urban fabric, especially on Vass. Sofias, Messogion, Syngrou, up to sea front, Kiffisias, and

Patission street. Furthermore, local Centers are operating as districts' centers, but have no special significance on entire city's level (Papayannis and Associates 1980).

Usually, an over local center offers to the user / inhabitant the possibility of multiple activities.

- Cosmopolitan centers (socialite squares), surrounded by banks, coffee shops, and restaurants, incorporating meeting points for contacts, communication, festivities, spectacles, political demonstrations etc (Tsironi, 1989).

Examples : Kolonaki square, Syntagma square.

5.1.4. The social role of the Open Public Spaces of Athens

Upon studying Open Public Spaces of Athens, during their historical development, we discover their relationships with the life of the society and their role in the formation of the city space, its image and character.

These spaces have been always related to the predominant functions of the part of the city where they are placed, and to the society (political, religious, commercial, cultural functions). During the historic course, the Open Public Spaces of Athens lost some of their traditional functions, as the monumental fountain, the public announcement of the news, the traditional market, etc.

Thus, the role, the necessity and the main functions and the urban significance of the Open Public Spaces of Athens nowadays, should be investigated.

The significance of the balance between the purpose built and the void space of the city, related to the density, the aesthetics and the functional importance, is generally recognized.

However, there are arguments about the preservation of the Open Spaces remained, and their formation, in order to be updated and adequate for today's requirements.

The squares of Athens reflect the life, the economic, historic and social characteristics of the society of Athens. Upon studying these characteristics one can discover the prevailing elements of contemporary Athenian society.

- a. The Athenian society is a bourgeois society. Most of the squares of Athens are the product of the society and the outcome of everyday social practice rather, than the

offshoot of a design procedure. They are characterized not by their configuration, but by their use by the inhabitants.

b. The micro consumption.

The Greek society is not a very productive one, as the investments are low and the economy is moving by the consumption. Thus, the squares are privileged spaces for these consumption activities gathered around them.

c. The rest.

Many squares are crowded by young people being unemployed, and this fact is reflected to the main function of the squares as spaces for rest or relaxation, with sitting areas and many coffee shops and pastry shops, used for the same reason (Exarchia Square).

d. The circulation

The automobile is most apparent in the Open Public Spaces of Athens, in streets and squares. The street or the square-circulation junction or parking area, is a common case in Athens, with the relevant disturbance for the pedestrians (Omonia square, many pedestrian streets etc).

5.1.5. The forms of the Open Public Spaces in Athens.

The morphology of the Open Public Spaces, and mainly the squares in Athens, is not always the result of special design, and in many cases is indifferent and accidental, and does not meet the needs of the inhabitants today. (See also 6.2.6.3. in Appendices).

Many of the Athenian squares are not “designed”, and often there is not an aesthetic motive in their formation. As far as the shapes are concerned, the majority (46,8%) have a rectangular shape, few of them have triangular shape (19%), others circular (15%) and the rest have irregular shapes.

These shapes can be explained by the way of their production. Some of the rectangular ones were created by a rectangular grid of streets, or were planned to be a building block, and later had been expropriated. The triangular ones have been created by the intersection of two roads in an angle less than 90°, producing a shape of site, difficult to build, and so they have been converted to squares.

The circular ones, are due to a radial streets' layout in the center of which is the square (e.g. Omonia, and squares in some suburbs).

The polygonal ones have been created by an irregular or occasional pattern of streets, or by the intersection of two different grids.

Concerning the relationships of the squares with their surrounding environment, they can be distinguished, in :

- "Introvert" squares (64,7%), where the green zones and the plantation are in the perimeter, and the space for recreation is in the center.
- "Extrovert" squares (13,3%), in which the green zones and the plantation are in the center of the space, while the sitting or the movement, are in the perimeter.

As far as the layout is concerned, the squares are differentiated according to the relationships between the green areas and areas of circulation.

- a. The green areas are separated from the areas of circulation with fences, walls, shrubs, bushes etc.
- b. The whole area is accessible and homogeneous (tiles, concrete, earth).
- c. The whole area is a green area, surrounded by side walks.

In relation to the formation of the squares there are 3 types :

- a. The areas of movement and rest (alleys, sittings, playgrounds), are separated by green zones (lawns and parterres). These zones are enclosed by walls, grilles, fences in 83,7% of the squares.
- b. The whole area of the square is accessible and homogeneous (12%).
- c. The square is consisted by a green area, hedged with a sidewalk around (Tsironi, 1989).

5.1.6. Materials

During the recent 30 years, the studies for the formation and the construction of the majority of Open Public Spaces in Athens, have been elaborated by the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works and by the Municipality of Athens. The Technical Services of these two organizations have applied a number of techniques for the various constructions for the formation of space and its equipment, which have some common characteristics, such as the rough construction, the simple and functional forms, in an attempt to achieve a variety of

lasting constructions, applicable in various situations. This procedure sometimes creates problems in aesthetic adaptation of these formations to the built environment, as they consist of a self-referring system with its aesthetic character.

The materials used for the ground surfaces, are usually concrete tiles, ceramic tiles, marble, bricks, concrete bricks, gravel or grass.

The constructions in height differences, as steps, ramps, retaining walls, are usually made of stone, concrete, bricks, marble. The walls and fences are usually made of bricks, rough concrete, wood, or metal, in various formations combined with natural elements and plants.

Constructions as pergolas, shades etc. are usually made of iron or wooden construction. (Ministry of Environment, 1988).

The plantation is consisting of trees, shrubs and grass, (despite the difficulties of conserving them under greek conditions, due to water shortage). Pines, poplars, eucalyptuses, mulberries, acacias, citron trees, and palm trees (the latter one, though not greek, is related to Neoclassicism), are the most common trees used in the Athenian Open Public Spaces, while the pepper tree, a favored tree at the beginning of the century, and the cypresses used in the plantation of hills, are no more popular.

The greenery of Open Public Spaces in Athens is not well organized and designed, in order to be functional and aesthetically pleasant, and usually is not adequately maintained.

The plantation is not always well arranged, and in some cases does not offer the shadow needed in summer time.

5.1.7. Street Furniture Equipment.

As already mentioned, every Open Public Space is consisted by various elements, as buildings, green areas, open spaces, sitting areas, pavings, pergolas etc., and objects of "Street Furniture" of common use by the inhabitants in their every day life in these spaces, e.g., lighting elements, seatings, kiosks, litter baskets, shades, signs etc.

For the development of social activities related to the Open Public Spaces, the contribution of a number of objects is needed, which will enable the use of Open Public Spaces by the inhabitants.

These sets of objects, according to their layout and combination with other spatial characteristics of the space, equip and simultaneously organize the space by articulating, separating or connecting the various areas of the Open Public Space, and finally characterize the Space, by their formal expression.

These objects must be :

- Functional and durable to weather conditions, made of appropriate materials and ergonomic design, so to facilitate the users.
- Of nice and pleasant design, so to add aesthetic value to the environment.
- Of appropriate design, so to comply to general character of the space, as far as the form, the size, the materials and the layout are concerned.
- Of interesting new technology, in order to express the level of technology and craftsmanship of time and place.

In Athens, during its historic evolution, initially there had been a uniformity in aesthetics of street furniture objects, as similar objects were used throughout the city.

There was also a generally applied Architectural Style, for instance, during the Neoclassic Period, and a compliance between Street Furniture Equipment and Architectural Style, producing an integrated character of the city's image.

Since the first decades of the 20th Century, with the employment of other Architectural Styles, as Eclecticism and Modern Movement, this integration started to disappear.

The request for innovation and originality, as evolved in the Architectural praxis has created an enormous variety of architectural styles of buildings which are reflected in the Open Public Space.

The usual equipment of the Open Public Spaces in Athens are :

- benches, mostly wooden on a iron framework, or constructions which form sitting elements, made of concrete, wood, metal.
- Pergolas are often used in squares, combined with wooden or metallic frames for climbing plants.
- Tents, awnings at the shop fronts, sunshades of any kind and large umbrellas.
- Litter baskets.
- Illumination posts, lamps, lanterns.
- Kiosks of any kind,
- Plates and panels for announcements and advertisements,
- Decorative water features such as pools, fountains, springs etc.

- Fences made of iron or wood and walls of various heights
- Bus stops
- Telephone booths
- Fountains
- Posts for electricity (DEH), telephony (OTE), and trolleys (EHM)
- Traffic Lights
- Panels for advertisements
- Railings
- Signs
- Panels for information
- Playgrounds' equipment, constructions for play etc., usually consisted of some typical objects such as a slide, swings, see-saw mill, and a sand-pit. Recently there have been some contemporary structures made of wooden frames for exercises (Ananiadou – Tzimopoulou 1995).

The equipment of the present-day Athenian Open Public Spaces, is usually a combination of old fashioned and obsolete designed objects with contemporary ones, because it has never been a decisive and organized renewal of these objects, but they are usually replaced in small quantities and one kind each time.

Moreover, these spaces do not consist of integrated and organized units with functional and aesthetically satisfactory pieces of equipment.

There is not a general and integrated design for the equipment of Open Public Spaces in Athens, in order to provide an uniformity to a certain extend, at least to groups of areas (Central, semi – central, regional districts).

It is usual in Athens, that almost each kind of these objects is designed by another team according to the Public Organization which is relevant to the related function, e.g., the bus-stops are designed by EAS (city buses), the telephone booths by OTE (Telephone Company), the railings, litter baskets, lighting posts by the Municipality, etc.

The lighting posts installed by the Municipality are different from area to area, and there are also pillars for electricity cables (concrete, DEH), pillars for telephone cables (wooden, OTE) or for trolleys (metal, EHS). Even the lighting posts installed by the Municipality are different in the same broader area.

5.1.8. Monuments

As already noted, the majority of Monuments or Monumental Spaces in Athens are concentrated in the central Open Public Spaces which consist the Historical Center. However, Monuments of Ancient times are not interrelated with Monuments of other periods and usually, they are not perceivable by the inhabitant in Athens, during everyday life activity.

The composition in the inhabitant's consciousness of a total image of city's development in time, should be attempted.

This would help the inhabitant to form a clear idea about Ancient city's elements and then, understand the continuity of city's development until today.

Hopefully, the Programme for the Unification of Archaeological spaces, when it will be completed, will help the inhabitants to become aware of their city's history.

The Medieval (Byzantine) monuments suffer from traffic, because of their small scale and the surrounding built environment. An arrangement of the circulation, especially that of pedestrians and attempts for their projection in relation to their environment, would be helpful.

The area of Plaka (the old city) is a particular Monumental Area, comprising ancient, medieval and recent Monuments. Especially the Anafiotika area is an islet with original architectural character and their preservation should be attempted, despite the archaeological arguments on the need for excavations in that point of the city.

The broader Historical Center is another city's area with a significant density of Newer Monuments (i.e. from 1833 until today). Except for the "Commercial Triangle", which is included between Stadiou, Ermou and Athinas street, there are no studies for the reformation of Open Public Spaces in the remainder Historical Center, in relation to Monuments.

5.1.9. Green Areas

The meaning and the significance of Greenery for the city of Athens, has changed during historical periods.

In the first Town Plans, Greenery was a necessary complement of Open Public or private Spaces, and a characteristic element of “boulevards” and it was everywhere as presence of the surrounding natural environment.

In other plans, as for instance, that by Th. Mawson had been proposed as an organizational axis of the Town Plan. In special cases as in Psychico and Philothei there has been an organization according to garden cities on the pattern of Eb. Howard.

With the expansion of the city of Athens, natural areas have been connected to city's building blocks and the distance and time needed for access from the city's center to the natural environment has been continuously increasing.

Recently, attempts have been about acquiring or creating new green areas for the city, as the previously private Syngrou Grove in Maroussi, which has become a Public Park, or the replantation of “Tourkovounia” hill in order to create the Attic Grove.

One of the most ambitious plans for the years to come, as already mentioned, is the Unification of the Green areas and Archaeological Sites from Panathinaikos stadium to Keramikos, containing Open Green Spaces and Archeological sties, in a continuous “Archeological Park” of specific character.

The special relationship of this park with the Archaeological Sites, brings up the significant problem of the suitability of the kind of green to be used in the Open Public Spaces in Athens, due to their particularity in relation to the specific landscape and the historic Monuments.

As Attican Landscape had historically a little vegetation, due to its climatic conditions and ground, as well as shortage of waters, only some kinds of plants were naturally growing. In Pikionis' landscape formations surrounding the Acropolis, the plantation has been attempted to remind of a “natural” situation with “ Attic vegetation” with olive and pine trees, cypresses, oleanders, schina etc, and the same principle was followed in the Archaeological areas (e.g. Athenian Agora). On the other hand, the trend to use, grass lawns, bushes geometrically cut, and water

consuming imported plants, is found in the majority of Athenian Squares in the districts.

The insufficiency of green areas in Athens, compared to European examples, as presented in 1.4., has been mainly caused by the successive expansions of the city, which the State has not been able to foresee, or eager to prevent and organize, so that the Open Public Spaces and Green Areas related to them, would adapt, as quantities, surface sizes, functions, equipment and overall space quality to the new needs.

It has been generally admitted that the Greenery in the city has a significant role, not only for healthy environmental and aesthetical reasons, but also for psychological ones, as it renders the contemporary city's spaces more familiar.

The specific factors of each area in the city space, as the building density, the dimensions of the district, the private and Public Open Spaces, the geometric characteristics of the roads network, are interrelated with green areas and impact its appearance and its role.

During the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, there were concerns and attempts for the creation of green areas and Parks, as its is already presented. The green areas in today's city are the product of these periods despite the maltreatment of the space and various attempts for their exploitation.

The Open Spaces in the Municipality of Athens in stremmas (1000m²) are :

-	Formed Open Spaces	2720
-	Not Formed Open Spaces	523
	Public and Municipal (Attic Grove included)	
-	Special Gardens	1400
	Gardens of Public Services, Organizations and private ones, not allowed to the public.	
-	Fallow lands	3000
	Buildings sites and industrial open areas	
-	Military Camps	564

(Papayannis and Associates 1983).

Besides, a severe problem related to Green Areas in Athens, is the number of different Authorities which have responsibility on various fields of this item :

The Authorities Responsible for the Management and Maintenance of Green Spaces in the Municipality of Athens Area are :

Name of Authority

1. Municipality of Athens
Acropolis, Philopappou, Pnyka, Planetarium, Asyrmatos, Lycabettus, Schisti Petra, Syngrou Grove, Polygonou Grove, Hills of Strefti, Skouze, Kolonos, Prompona Plantation, Evangelismos Grove, Ag. Ioannis Vouliagmenis, Ag. Nikolaos Pefkakion, Dourgouti square, Ag. Sostis, and all the squares, traffic islands, rows of trees o streets.
2. Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works.
Mars' Field, Finopoulou Hill, Byzantine Museum, Venizelos Monument's area, Attic Grove, Rows of trees in Kavalas, Syngrou, Kallirois, Messogion, Vouliagmennis and Thisseos avenues, Coastal area from Phaliro to Moschato.
3. Ministry of Agriculture
National Garden, Thission Garden, Museum Garden, Old Parliament
4. Olympic Legacy Committee
Zappion, Ardittos Hill.
5. Ministry of Culture and Sciences
Part of the Acropolis slopes, Olympian Zeus' Temple, Thission, Plato's Academy, Cultural Center.
6. Athens University
Botanical Garden
7. Agricultural University
Garden of Agricultural Univeristy
8. Churches' Lands Organization
Pangrati Grove
9. Gendarmerie School
Grove of Gendarmerie School
10. Ministry of Justice
Hill in Vouliagmenis avenue
11. Panhellenic Union
Part of Assyrmatos
"Christian Eduaction"
12. Greek Women's
National Council
"Petalona arena"
13. Forestal Union
Space beyond Olympian Zeus' Temple
14. Greek Railways (OSE)
Space of rails
15. Electric trains
Space of rails

16. Tourism Organization

Racecourse space in Faliron (EOT).

(Source : Gardens' and Rows of Trees' Service of Municipality of Athens).

In Central Athens the sizes of the main Open and Green spaces measured in stremmas (1000 m²), are :

- Grove of Acropolis	90
- Grove of Planetarium	250
- Grove of Philopappou Hill	240
- Grove of Thission	20
- Grove of Olympian Zeus Temple	10
- Ippios Kolonos Hill	15
- Grove of St. John (Vouliagmenis)	10
- Lycabettus Hill	500
- Evelpidon Martial School (the present Law Courts)	90
- Stefi's Hill	40
- Grove of Pangrati	25
- Grove of Evangelismos	10
- Skouze Hill	10
- Grove of Syngros	180
- Ardittos Hill	60
- St. Nicolas (Pefkakia)	15
- Mars' Field	230
- Zappio	120
- National Garden	150
- Byzantine Museum - Rizarios garden etc	100
- Various minor greeneries	250
- Attic Grove – Tourkovounia	600
- Goudi Park	850
- Archaeological sites.	1150

(Aravantinos and Kosmaki, 1988).

The specifications included in the Master Plans of various Greek Towns, and especially these of the city of Athens, which have been studied since the decade of the '60s, determined that the proportion of $2,8 \text{ m}^2/\text{inhabitant}$ should reach the $9,5 \text{ m}^2/\text{inhabitant}$.

However, the greenery around the city of Athens, despite the distances and the accessibility problems, meets the proportion of $75 \text{ m}^2/\text{inhabitant}$.

The most recent guide of specifications by the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works (1983) proposes, as standards for towns with population over 200.000 inhabitants :

Playgrounds (Children 1-6 years)	$0,5 \text{ m}^2/\text{inhabitant}$
Playgrounds (Children 6-12 years)	0,75
Free sports grounds (youth 12-18 years)	1,0
Local Squares and Parks	1,75
District Park	2,0
Sector Park	1,5
City Park	2,0
Total	$9,5 \text{ m}^2/\text{inhabitant}$

In Athens, there is a problem of pollution, which is somehow related to the low average proportion (less than $3,0 \text{ m}^2$) of the green areas per inhabitant. Some of the reasons for this are :

- hills, not planted and shaped, remnants of former quarries.
- Small size of the majority of squares, without plantation
- Large areas still not shaped, without organized functions.

The green areas help the city's spaces in many ways :

- Amelioration of climate conditions.
(amelioration of air's temperature, solar radiation, control, effect on the winds, ground's features' improvement).
- Mechanical uses
(decrease of atmospheric pollution, decrease of noise, ground corrosion control).
- Architectural uses.

(use as architectural elements, isolated or grouped variety of forms, colours, sizes).

- Aesthetic uses.

(Natural beauty of trees and bushes, change of impressions according to seasons).

- Social benefits.

(Environmental education, leisure, improvement of dull build environment).

The insufficiency of Green areas in Athens has as consequent result the lack of all the above benefits for the city, and particularly for the Open Public Spaces.

Hence, the attempt to increase the Green areas in Open Public Spaces in Athens, should be a priority of Landscape Architecture related to these spaces.

Unfortunately, the Green areas are totally eliminated in some of the most recent Urban Open Spaces formations in Athens, (e.g. the first prizes in Competitions of Omonia Square and Monastiraki square).

A special category of the Green areas in the city are the Parks, which can be distinguished in :

- Leisure parks,

Activities, Luna Parks, attractions, Fishing, Swimming, amusement Restaurants, playgrounds, etc. Example are the Disneyland Parks. In Athens there is not a Park of this category.

- Thematic Parks

Dream atmosphere, according to a certain "Theme" drawn from tradition, collective memory or cultural heritage. Example is the Park de la Villette in Paris, based on a abstract geometric system, with smaller thematic gardens (e.g. Bamboos' garden). In Athens there is not a Park of this kind.

- Zoological Parks.

Concentration of wild animals and Aquariums mostly with educational aims.

- Water Parks

Evolved mostly in Mediterranean countries, with water and the main element.

In Athens there are not Zoological and Water Parks, although many times have been attempts for their creation.

- Ecological Parks.

Education and information of visitors about contemporary environmental problems. A Park of this kind is being created in Ag. Anargiri, in the former Queen Amalia's Estate.

- **Historic Parks**

Parks related to a specific historic period, conserved as they used to be, and Parks containing historic buildings and archaeological monuments, with references to history. A large Park of this category will be created with the unification of Athens' Archaeological Spaces.

5.1.10. The Role of the State and the Legislative Context.

As presented already in the Historic Development of the city of Athens and its Open Public Spaces, the role of the State in relation to Urban Spaces, has changed according to general circumstances and the spirit of the times, and has been expressed by the relevant Legislative Framework which has been applied.

- In the first period, of king Otto's Reign, when the first Town Plan had been proposed by Klenathis and Scaubert, there had been many interventions by the State, including the King himself and his consultants, (e.g. L. von Klenze). This caused several changes by decreasing the sizes of Open Public Spaces, to the benefit of Landowners.

The first Green areas and Landscape formations had been created under Queen's consultation. Regulations for building heights had been imposed, mostly in Constitution square, because of the presence of the Royal Palace.

- In the second period, there had been an endeavour for "modernization" by the State for the image of Athens, by assigning studies of the Town Plan to various architects and consultants (e.g. L. Hoffmann, Th. Mawson), whilst Athens was completing its Neoclassical image. Thus the city was organized and equipped to the contribution of its expansion and its ever increasing size.

These plans had been studied without any legislative framework for Urban Planning. The State's intervention did not handle the city in its total aspect, and there were police's employment, mostly concerning the buildings' construction and sanitary arrangements.

- The victorious Balkan Wars (1912-13), had as a result the doubling of Greek territory and population, as well as the evolution of the capital.
- However, the Asia Minor Disaster has been the fact which caused a dramatic change in the structure of Athens, by the immigration of refugees, which generated the formation of Urban Planning Legislation. During this period, the attempts by the State were directed mainly towards the accommodation of refugees, by creating suitable settlements, which affected the city's structure. In 1923, the Legislative Decree was issued, concerning the "Plans of Cities, Towns, and Settlements of the State, and their Construction", consisting a pioneering law for that period and till today, as having foreseen the participation of citizens in the procedures.

In 1928, a Decree was issued, concerning "The definition of terms and restrictions for construction of buildings in and out of the zones of Towns", had been published.

In 1929, the first "General Buildings Regulation" by the Decree of 3.6.1929, and the Law 3741/29 "On the proprietorship in stories" were published and although attempts were made to respond to the needs of that period, they also included key provisions for the future development and formation of city's Open Public Spaces. During that period, despite the proposals and projects by various committees, planners and the Municipality, the State did not take any serious decisions for an integrated Urban Organization and City Form, and the State's interventions dealt only with minor and fragmentary items, such as city's expansions, opening of new roads, etc., and did not consider the city as an entity, so to be able to elaborate an integrated, functional Town Plan with functional and pleasant Open Public Spaces.

- During the period following the 2nd World War, and the subsequent Civil War, which caused the destruction of a major part of the city, the state undertook a more active role for the arrangement of items related to Open Public Spaces and Residential areas.

The need for a "Reconstruction Plan", obliged the State to establish the Ministry of Reconstruction and the Ministry of Coordination and carry out a great number of studies, concerning the collection of data about the existing situation and the programming of reconstruction of destroyed areas of the city. However, in the period following the War, the State's choices for the

development of the country and the city, was mostly to encourage industrialization, a fact which attracted many industries in the outskirts of Athens, as well as the promotion of the building construction industry. These two facts affected the Open Public Spaces of the City by the increase of the building volume, the demolition of almost all neoclassical buildings, and the explosive increase of population.

- In the following period, many urban public works had been constructed in the spirit of Modernization and quick economic development, led the State to wrong decisions, as e.g., the dismantling of trams' rails in order to support the use of private cars, the unwise modification of Omonia square and the covering of Ilissos river. However, it also caused the creation of the formation of Open Spaces around Acropolis. The Master Plan of Athens has been studied by the Master Plan Service of the Ministry of Public Works since 1960, while specific studies have been confined to private offices. Example is, the Study for the Circulation to American office W. Smith, which was led to wrong proposals, as it was based on wrong estimations, related to American standards.
- In the decade of 1970s', the problem of arbitrary settlements spread to all natural environment in Attica, that was rather aggravating, but the States' interventions to these areas usually took place after the bursting of a serious problem. This attitude by the State led to the overthrow of an unified city's structure, and to the creation of a multi – centered and multi – character city, with no distinctive identity.
- In the decade of 1970s', the Legislative Decrees 1003/71 "On Active Urban Planning" and 1262/72 "On Master Plans of Urban Areas" have been published, but they were partly applied. In the same period, new necessities have been added in Programming and Planning, as the protection of Natural and Built Environment and the need of Energy saving, along with the quality of Urban Space and the concern for the social and political problems which were created by the mass living conditions in the cities.

These new necessities describe the modifications in Urban Planning Legislation. In the Constitution of 1975, the Environment was established as a legitimate possession, whilst the quality of life was validated and the State was obliged to protect it. At that time, two phases were distinguished in Planning, the Regional and the Town Planning, under the regulating responsibility of the State. For the application of the Constitution, a number of Laws had been voted in the

Parliament, such as the Law 360/76 "On Regional Planning and Environment", the Law 947/79 "On Residential Areas", the Law 880/79 "On Definition of highest Plot Ratio Coefficient etc", the Law 998/79 "On Protection of forests and forestall areas of the country", the Law 1032/80 "On the Establishment of the Ministry of Regional Planning, Housing and Environment", the Law 1337/83 "On the expansion of Town Plans, Housing Development and other adjustments" replacing the Law 947/79, and the Law 1512/85, which completed the Law 1337/83.

The Law 1577/85 comprising the new "General Building Regulation" was more flexible for creative architectural applications, but it also offered possibilities for higher exploitation of the space. The Law 1515/85 which actually comprised the enactment of the Master Plan of Athens, and the Law 1650/86 "On Protection of the Environment", have also been published (Tzika – Hatzopoulou 2000).

The trends noted in the States' interventions by these Laws, are the updating of Greek Urban Planning Legislation, the provision of possibilities for Land Policy, for economic development for protection of the Environment, indicate the change of the State's attitude in decision making, in collaboration with other interested parts through participation procedures, the attempt for coordination of various Public Organizations, and the deputing of responsibilities to Municipal Authorities.

The Law 1622/86 "On Local Authorities and Regional Development" and the Law 2503/97 "On Administration, Organization, Staffing of the Region, and Adjustment of items for Local Authorities", offered the possibility to Municipal Authorities for the "Planning, Programming and Coordination of Regional Development", in their areas.

The formation of Space, was also affected by the Developmental Programmes, elaborated in the context of National and European Policy, as European Union's Legislation and its Financing mechanisms had a predominant role in the items related to Space.

The European Union, since the Maastricht Agreement, imposed terms for the Environment's Protection, and the Public Works, and for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, as expressed in texts like the "Green Bible for the Urban Environment", the "Europe 2000, perspectives of development of "Communal Land" etc.

All these directives express the new conceptions concerning the space, as “the Sustainable or Viable Development”, which encourages the search for quality of life and the ensuring of Natural Resources for the next generations.

In its application, this Legislative Framework has shown that the existing Legislation has been proved somehow indefinite and complicate and often referred to previous Laws.

A grave problem concerning the State’s role in relation to Space issues, is the overlapping of responsibilities of various Organizations concerning the elaboration of Studies, or the application of Design proposals concerning the Space formation.

A number of Ministries (Economy, Culture, Agriculture Education, Industry, Environment Regional Planning and Public Works etc), as well as Municipalities, civic authorities, Prefectures etc. have now Design responsibilities, and sometimes there are problems of coordination among them.

Besides, a very grave problem in handling space organizational problem and arrangements programming by the state, is the lack, until today, of a Real Estate Registry. There were many cases of individuals contesting large properties which in another cases would be easily scheduled by the State as Open Public Spaces.

Nowadays, studies for the recognition, estimation of needs and design of Open Public Spaces are elaborated by :

- The Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works, which is responsible for all Public Works and consequently for these in Athens. These works can be distinguished in two groups, according to their scale of intervention :
 - a. The large scale interventions, as for example, the study for the Protection of the Coastal Zone of the Saronic Gulf, or the Park for Environmental Education in Ag. Anargyri, which are being studied by the “Organization Athens” of the Ministry.
 - b. The medium, or small scale interventions, as squares, pedestrian roads etc, studied by the “Direction of Studies and Works’ Construction” of the Ministry.
- The Municipality of Athens, and other Municipalities in Athens’ region, which also have programmes for Open Public Spaces’ formations, in medium and small scale of Space, and programmes for Street Furniture equipment, embellishment

etc., elaborated by the Municipality's Technical Service. Such programmes are about the shaping of squares and pedestrian roads of various districts, the lighting of central areas, the installations of fountains, railings in streets, etc.

- Independent groups of Architects, Landscape Architects, Agriculturists etc., charged with such design studies.
- The "Unification of Archaeological Spaces S.A." a joint Organization of the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works, and the Ministry of Culture, which forwards related items, coordinates actions, assigns studies of such Spaces, and organizes Architectural Competitions related to these matters.
- The Organization "Athens 2004", responsible for the Organization of Olympic Games, which is assigning studies of Olympic athletic installations and also the related broader regions.
- Various Construction Enterprises, as "Olympic Metro" S.A. which is charged with Constructions of Large Public Works, as the Metro, Garages under Squares etc., and elaborates studies for the Open Public Spaces, related to their main Works, under the approval by the Ministry.
- Departments of Universities, or groups of academic teachers and researchers, charged with the studying of "Research Programmes", i.e., studies about Open Public spaces, usually of large scale, which need extensive research before the proposals, due to the significance of the subject, e.g., the Goudi Park, or Helliniko, the former Athens Airport area.

The conclusion from the inquiry about the role of the State, as presented during the historic development of Athens, and in today's socioeconomic system, is that the state's interventions in city's matters has often been on behalf of land owners and big companies, and at the expense of the inhabitants and the environment. In certain cases under the pressure of social groups, the State has taken measures for the improvement of the living conditions in the city, but usually in Athens, the State's interventions have been displayed after the creation of serious problems, as for instance the expansions of the City's Plan, after the construction of arbitrary settlements in various areas, when it is difficult to plan and organize an adequate infrastructure for the settlement and provide sufficient Open Public Spaces.

The interference of many Governmental Organizations and Municipality Authorities in decision making procedures, often creates problems of coordination and is not always clear the interventions manifested through Urban or Landscape

Design, under which requirements have been shaped and which needs they attempt to serve.

There is a big number of Legislative acts concerning the City's Spaces, which have been created due to the evolution of city's and society's problems, but a clarification of various items would help towards the rational use of them.

5.1.11. The Character of Athenian Open Public Spaces.

As presented in 1.3.2., the Character of an Open Public Space is the resultant of many natural, social, cultural and environmental factors. Combinations of these factors have historically created an unlimited variety of spaces of distinctive character.

As far as the character of Athenian Open Public Spaces is concerned, "Greek Character" has become a mechanism useful in the procedure for search of "National Consciousness" (Philippidis 1983).

In Athens, the first Town Plan by Kleanthis and Schaubert, provided the structure for Open Public Spaces' organization and development.

This plan, though Neoclassic in its concept, was well adapted to natural environment and to existing social and economic relationships (Karydis 1990).

The Attic landscape is one of the most beautiful of all, for the transparency of light and the quality of its colours (Loyer 1968).

Although the relationships between Open Public Spaces and the natural landscape were direct and had been determined by the Town Plan, these Open Public Spaces have been planned as "Neoclassic artifacts". This character was due to the Neoclassic spirit of the New Hellenic State, favoured due to its "reasoned" relationship to Classic Architecture.

This Character was reinforced and completed in the following periods, until 1922. During these periods the Neoclassic and Urban Character of Open Public Spaces expressed the gradual change of the Athenian society towards a bourgeois society following European patterns and economic development.

However, this Neoclassic character was austere, matching to the plain and calm Landscape. During the 20th Century, Greek Landscape Architecture has often

oscillated between the desire to follow international and avant-garde evolutions and the attempt to “grow up from the Greek ground”.

In the mid – War period, Athens’ Open Public Spaces were influenced by two major events : The first was the arrival of a great number of refugees from Asia Minor, which caused upheavals on Social and Urban Level.

The second was the admission and use also of other architectural styles (e.g.French and Modern) than the Neoclassic one, along with new construction techniques.

These new styles and mainly the Modern one, was used in new constructions, changing the image and character of Open Public Spaces which lost their uniform Physiognomy.

However, many central Open Public Spaces in Athens were still keeping a distinctive Character, as e.g. Omonia Square with its “European” Style.

Despite the increased use of Modern style in the Mid – War period, this was also the period of “returning to the roots” and search by architects and other intellectuals of the “Hellenic Spirit” and values.

During the World War II and the Civil War, the atmosphere of Athenian Open Public Spaces was considerably changed, due to military activities by the conquerors and various resistance groups, taking place in these spaces.

These activities also caused the demolition of buildings and the destruction of Open Public Spaces.

In the Post – War period, the reconstruction of Athens from the War damages, and the economic development which was mainly based on apartment buildings construction, led to the replacement of almost all existing neoclassic buildings.

This procedure resulted to a complete change of Open Public Spaces’ surrounding environment and prevailing Neoclassic Character, towards an indifferent and impersonal “Modern” physiognomy.

This change of Open Space’s Character, occurred along with the change in city’s everyday life.

Furthermore, unwise State’s interventions in Open Public Spaces, in order to achieve a “modernization” of city’s image, such as the conversion of Omonia Square to a circulation junction, the withdrawal of tramways, or the covering of Ilissos river, in order to construct a new arterial road, not only changed significant functions of the

city, but also deprived Open Public Spaces of some traditional and particular features and caused non-reversible changes to their Character.

However, since the Post-War period, there was a restoration of the issue of “Greek Character” in Cultural life, which was crystallized in the decades of 1920s and 1930s. This time, “Greek Character” had been connected with a “request for truth”, in relation to Greek tradition and to some aspects of Modernism.

During the same period, the formation of spaces surrounding the Acropolis, has been considered as one of the most important works of post – war period in Athens.

In this landscape formation, there has been an attempt to search everlasting values of traditional Greek architecture of various periods, expressing a “Greek Character”. Space forms, materials, and constructions, have been adapted to Attic Landscape as a “natural” architecture, as ever been there, providing a “local” and “Attic” character to these. Open Public Spaces, respectful to Classic Antiquities.

In the period 1975-1985, the request for “Greek character” gradually ceased to be in the center of Greek Architect’s’ interests.

The search for stable “Greek values” was replaced by an attitude sensitive to the specific landscape, climate, use of local materials and an eclectic reference to traditional forms (Kondaratos 2000).

This evolution had impacted Athens’s Open Public Spaces’ Character by providing a great diversity of forms in the built environment.

Since 1980, the freedom in Landscape Architecture has been enforced by various Post – Modern tendencies, following a general doubt about Modernism’s theory and praxis.

Despite many unsuccessful results, Postmodernism has influenced the formation of Open Public Spaces towards a most daring space syntax and handling of materials and forms.

However, these tendencies whenever were applied in the formation of Athenian Open Public Spaces, led to almost complete change of Space’s Character e.g. the proposals for the formation of central squares in Athens (Omonia, Syntagma, Monastiraki, Koumoundourou square) were self-referring designs, which ignored the historical character of the Space. On the other hand, the commercial exploitation of Athenian Open Public Spaces, by large scale use of giant posters and illuminated advertisements, resulting in the dominance of communication functions on Open

Public Space, has already created a new “artifact” character of Open Public Spaces, alienated from the natural environment. For instance, the space character of Kifissias avenue is that of a linear commercial center, where odd building forms and advertisement labels are dominating, expelling the natural environment from an once country road and creating a totally unfamiliar Public Space.

Moreover, the large scale which is being established in new Open Public Spaces e.g. the new Thematic Parks, or the Programme for the Unification of Athens’ Archaeological spaces, correspond to giant urban structures and new Character of space. This Character refers to very large areas, high speeds and complicated programmes of high diversity of functions, forms etc.

In these organizations, a united Character of Space cannot be achieved and in rather consists of a number of different partial ones.

On the other hand, as there is a tendency to follow international patterns, the dangerous future perspective could be the International homogeneity of Open Public Spaces’ Character. This should be avoidable, because in such a case, the Space would loose its historic and social significance for the city.

5.2. COMPARISON BETWEEN ATHENIAN AND EUROPEAN OPEN PUBLIC SPACES

5.2.1. Short Review of the development and design of Open Public Spaces, during the 19th and 20th century.

The 19th century was the period of considerable development of urban open Public Spaces. The industrial revolution and the anarchious increase of the cities, caused large urban reformations like these by the administration of Prefect G. Haussmann in Paris (1853-1869) including the Bois de Boulogne, the park Montsouris, numerous squares, large boulevards, walking alleys etc, in a large intervention to the medieval city, in order to create a majestic bourgeois city structure with urban and military parameters (Anderson, 1991). In London, the Crystal palace in Hyde Park in 1851, showed the new relationship between a mechanical construction and the natural Landscape (Benevolo 1977).

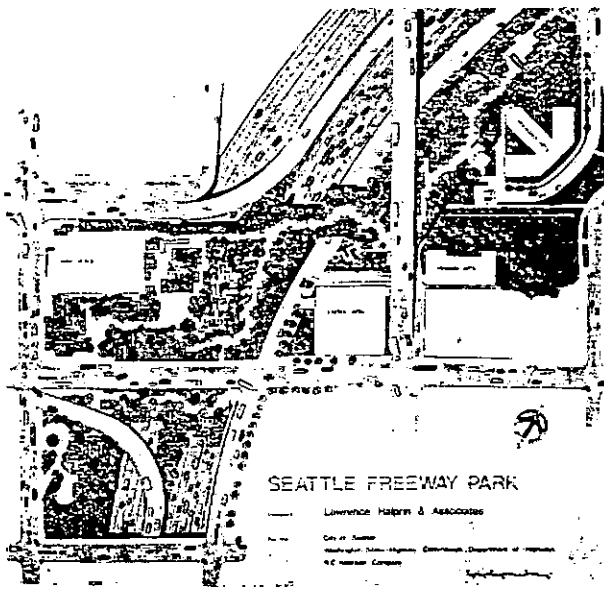
In 1830 the Open Public Spaces started to be part of the Urban Planning, while the reformation of the first parks like St. James Park, and Regent's Park were already in progress (Aravantinos and Kosmaki (1988).

The need for the Urban Parks arised from the population increase in cities and the need of inhabitants for gathering and recreation spaces, as well as for contact with nature. The design of these Parks was differentiated from the urban tissue by adopting free shapes and forms, in contrast to linear geometry of the latter.

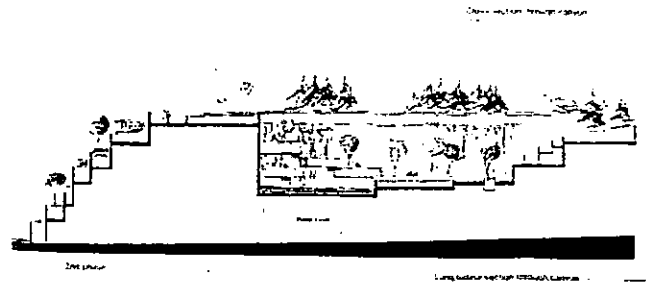
In 1889, Eb. Howard proposed the garden city, as a pattern for the organization of the city in relation to nature.

At the end of 19th century, William Morris introduced the Art and Craft Movement as a return to nature, against the Victorian sophisticated model.

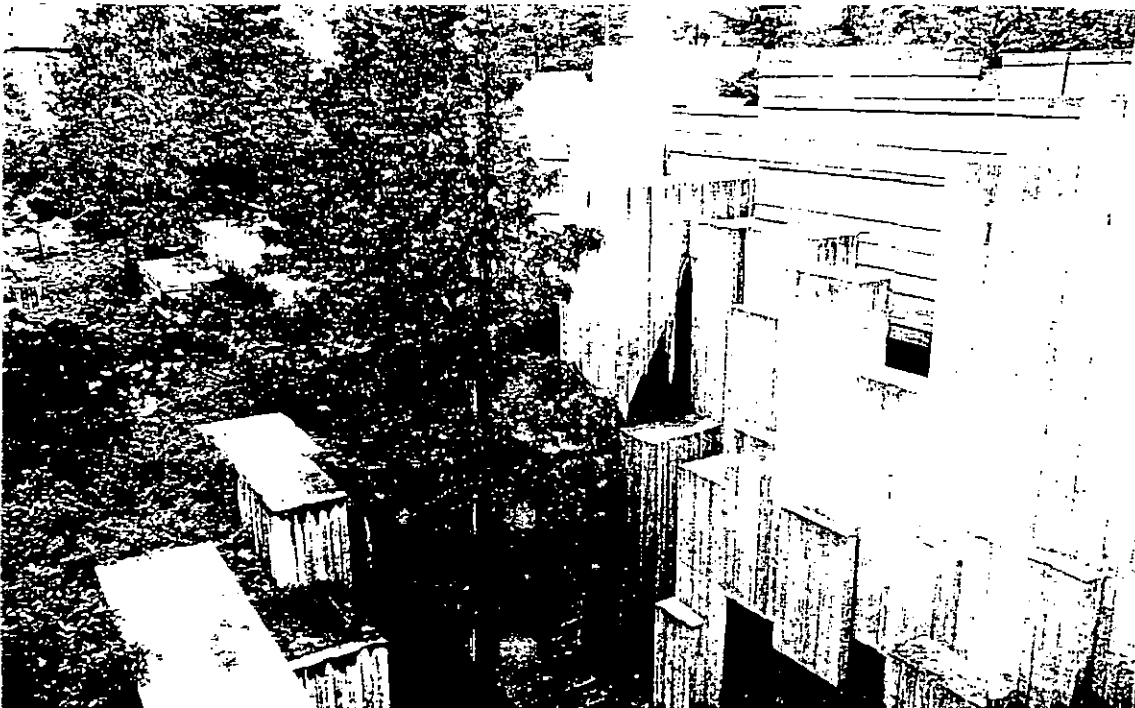
In United States there was an influence from Europe about the urban parks, named Movement for the Embellishment of Cities, and outstanding examples are the creation of Central Park in N. York by Fr. L. Olmsted, a prospect park in Brooklyn by C. Vaux, and in a different spirit the reformation of Washington according to L. Infant's ideas as Landscapes for temporary "escape" from the urban conditions, that provided the social benefit of improved environmental design and recreation spaces in urban areas (Frampton, 1980).



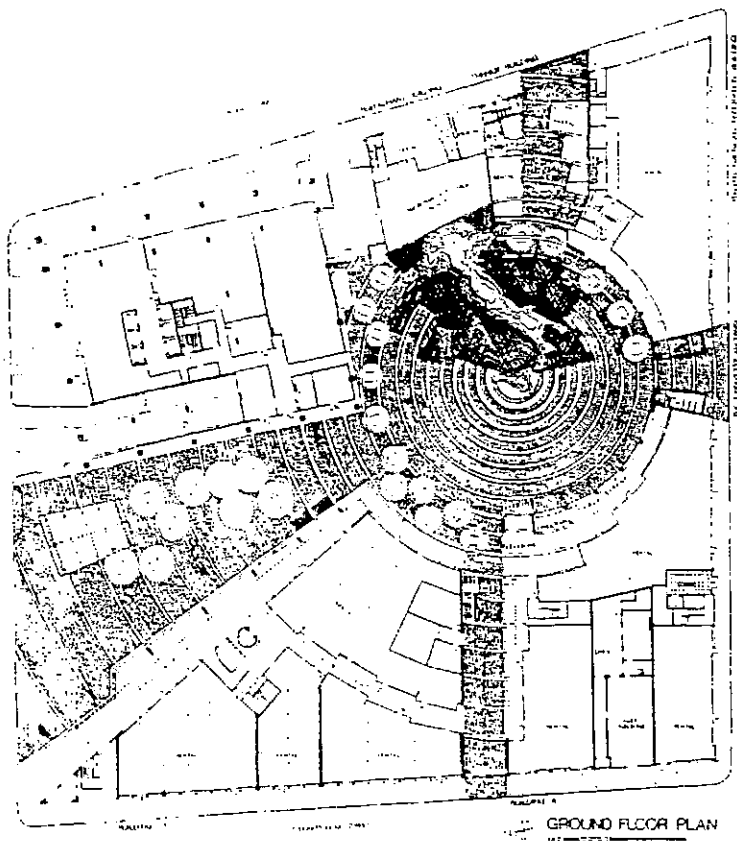
483. Seattle Freeway Park, Washington
(L. Halprin, 1976, source: Lyall 1992)



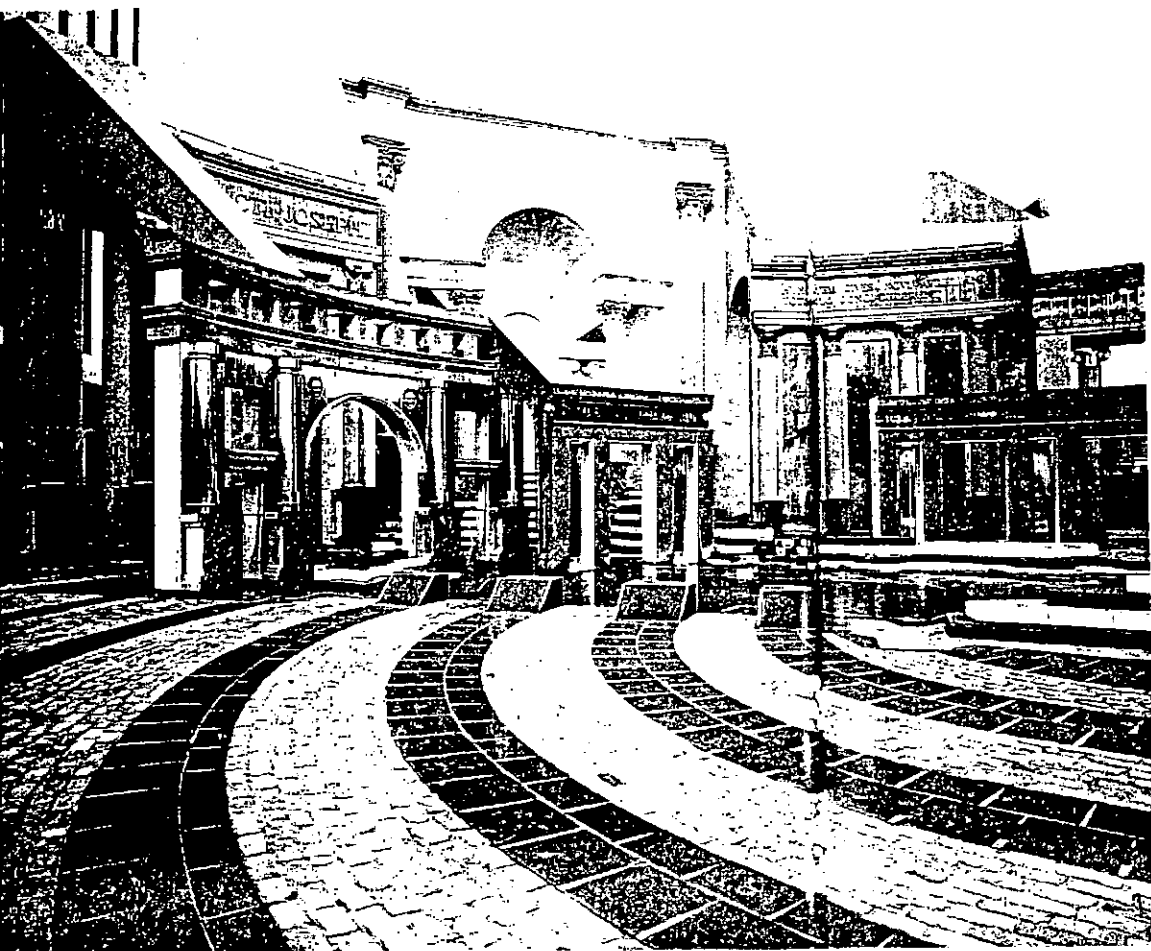
484. Seattle Freeway Park, Washington
(L. Halprin, 1976, source: Lyall 1992)



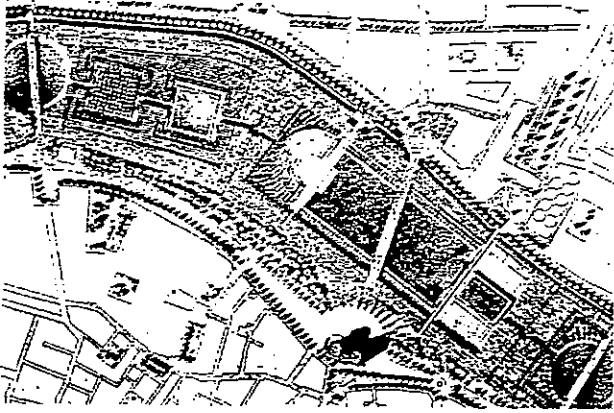
485. Seattle Freeway Park, Washington (L. Halprin, 1976, source: Lyall 1992)



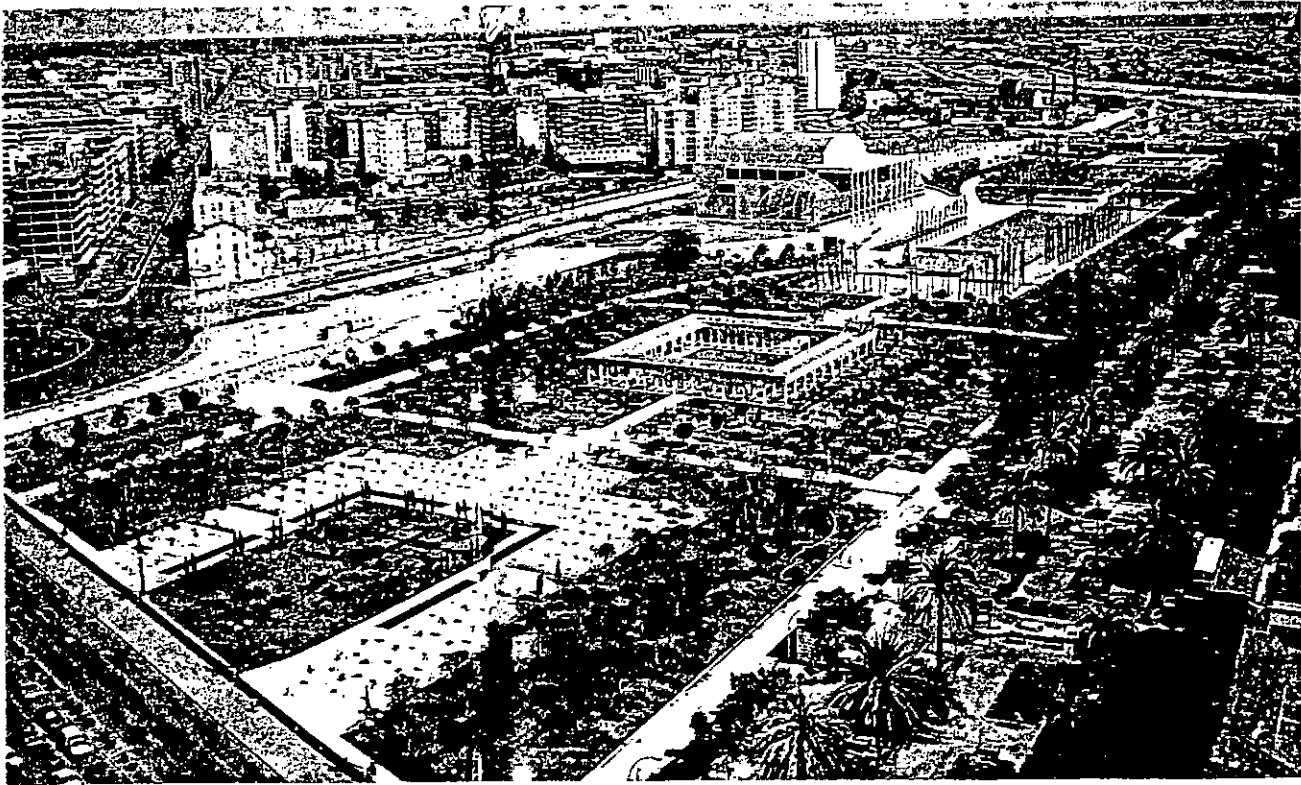
5. Piazza d' Italia New Orleans (Moore, Perez Associates and Ron, 1980, source: Lyall 1992)



487. Piazza d' Italia New Orleans (Moore, Perez Associates and Ron, 1980, source: Lyall 1992)



488. Jardins de Turia, Valencia, Spain (Taller de Arquitectura, 1985, source Lyall 1992)



489. Jardins de Turia, Valencia, Spain (Taller de Arquitectura, 1985, source Lyall 1992)

At the beginning of the 20th century the various political and economic conflicts, and the re-evaluation of scientific and philosophical theories have influenced the industrial society towards the logic of mechanically organized production, but also they have exercised an influence upon the aesthetics, on thinking, and space arrangement.

At that time, Functionalism was established in architecture, planning, land uses, and landscape design. The architect's preoccupations were mainly dealt with progress, geometry, technology, order, and machine image.

As G. Jellicoe noticed : *"The International Style was inhuman but distinguished: not so the awful Functionalism. The scientific expression of engineering maybe beautiful, but an architecture that express its use literally and without poetry is dead. In either case to common man felt excluded"* (Lyall 1992).

The Political and economic conditions and the social problems in the Mid-War period, the needs for Habitat in the cities, put the Housing constructions as the first priority, leaving apart the quality of the landscape and the formation of open spaces, although necessary areas were planned.

In many cases the predominant economic factors of this period led to even the loss of these spaces.

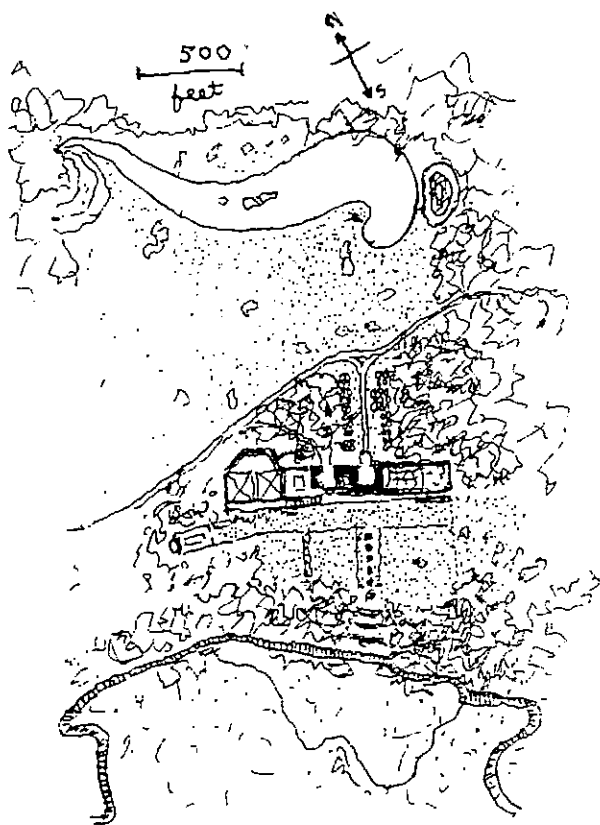
The Modern Movement, as expressed by Le Corbusier, related with the movements of garden cities, conceived the landscape not as a mere basic element, but mainly as a natural background for the buildings layout.

The "Charter of Athens" (1933) expressed the principles of zoning for the arrangement of the main functions of the city (habitation, circulation, work and leisure) in which the landscape played a role for a green zone in order to make provision for the healthy living conditions.

In a different style, in Spain, A Gaudi designed the Park Guell in Barcelona, a totally irregular and Art – Nouveau Landscape.

The collective perception of the Landscape in Europe and the profession of the Landscape Architect evolved in that period. The Modern Movement, which swept through almost the whole century, attempted to discontinue the past and the continuity and glorified everything massive : Mass information Media, Mass production, Mass Transportation etc, creating the relevant mentality.

The techno – scientific revolution, which started following the 2nd War, influenced Urban Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture,



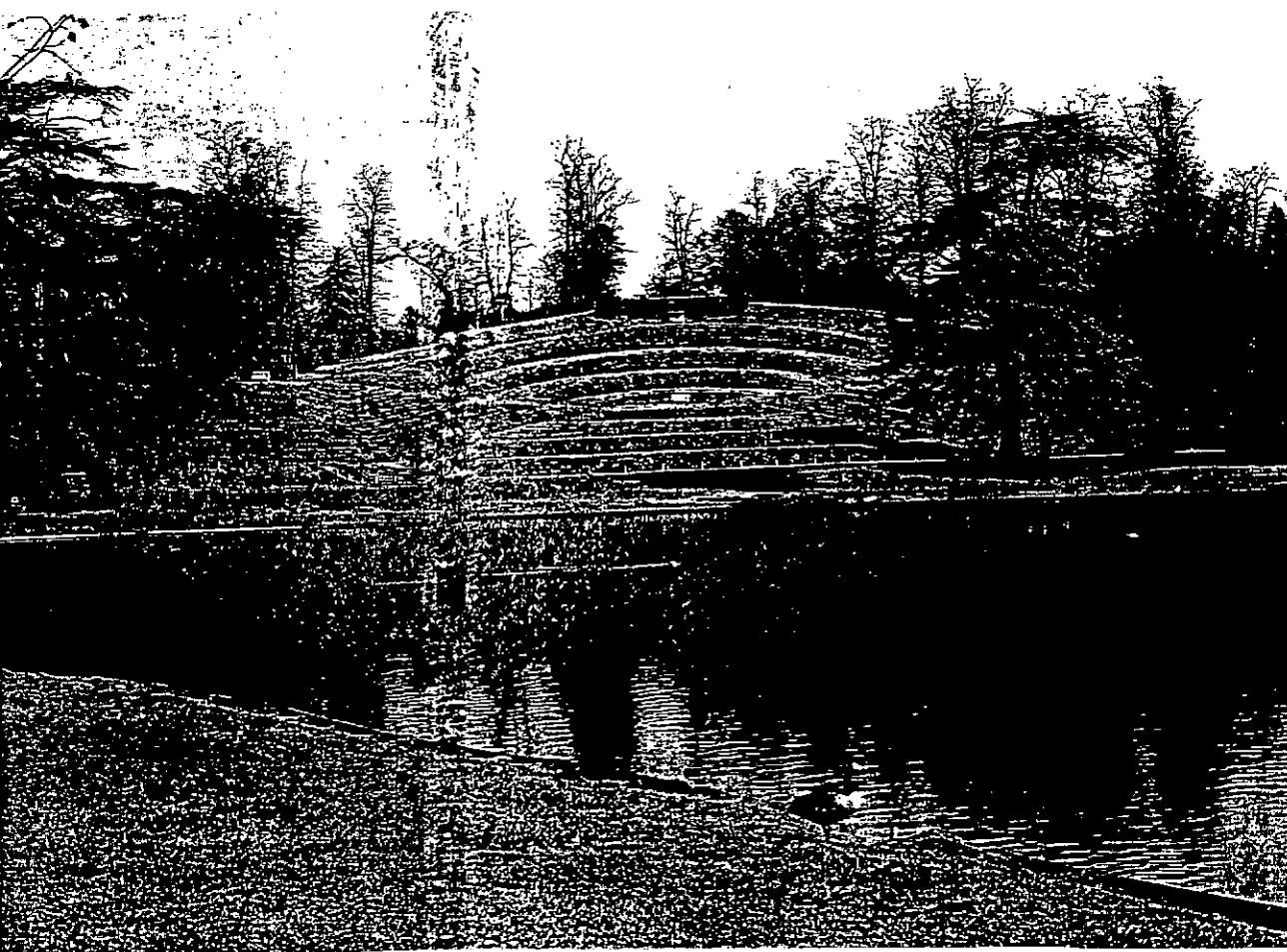
490. Sutton Place, Surrey (Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, 1982, source Lyall 1992)



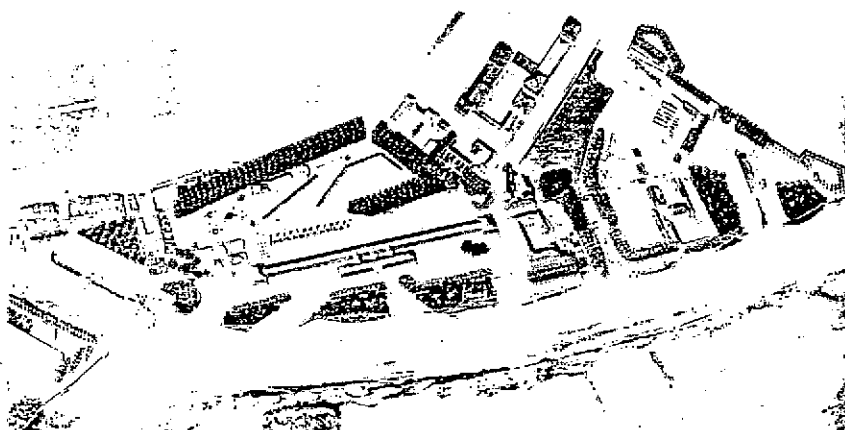
491. Sutton Place, Surrey (Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, 1982, source Lyall 1992)



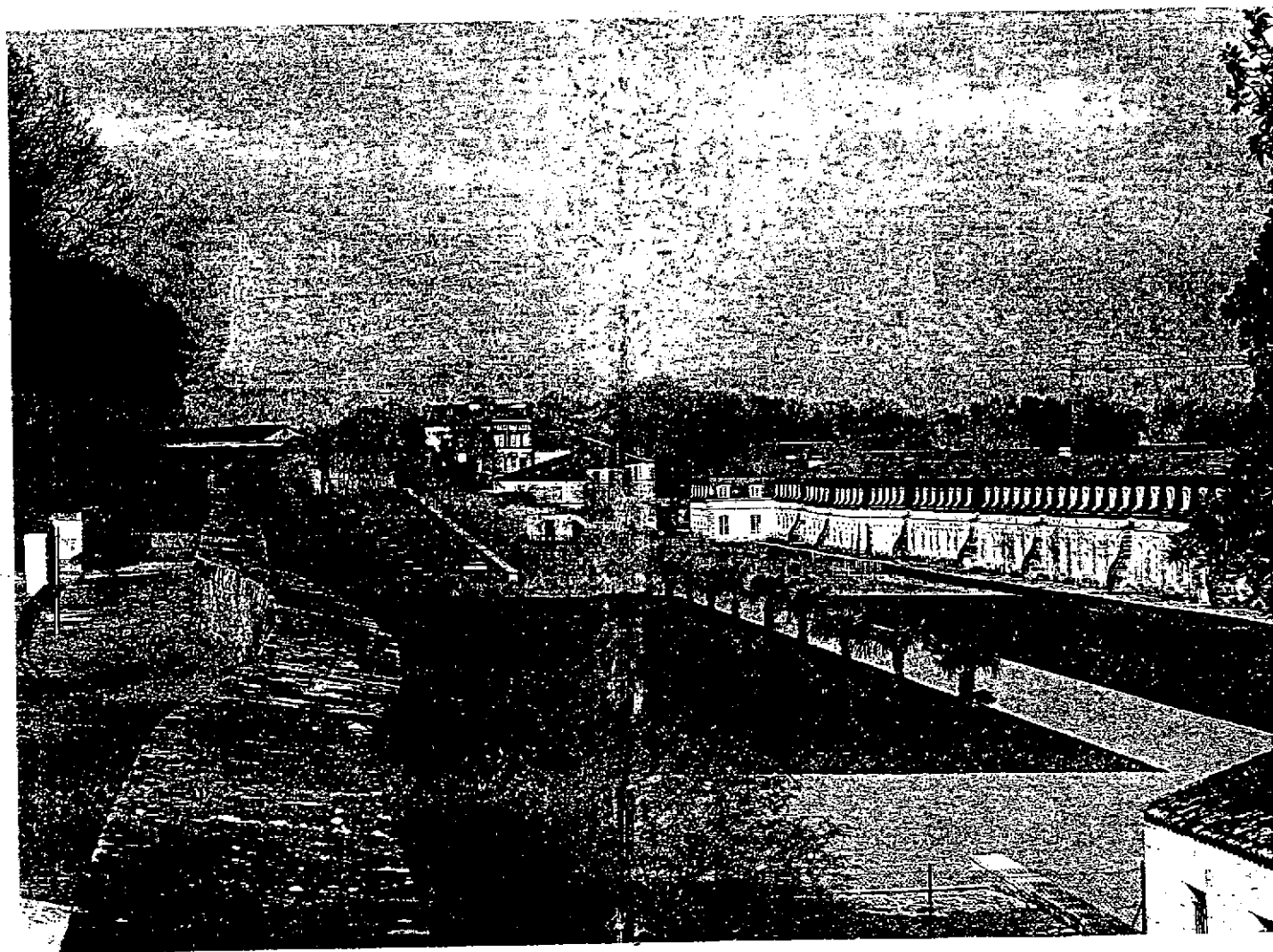
92. Restoration of Claremont, Surrey (The National Trust, 1981, source Lyall 1992)



93. Restoration of Claremont, Surrey (The National Trust, 1981, source Lyall 1992)



494. Le Park de la Corderie Royale, Rochefort sur Mer, France
(Bern and Lassus, 1988, source Lyall 1992)



495. Le Park de la Corderie Royale, Rochefort sur Mer, France (Bern and Lassus, 1988, source Lyall 1992)

as well as the theoretical Movements related to them. The influence of Abstract Art on the Landscape design, is exemplified by the work of R. B. Marx, conceived as an abstract painting with its colours.

After the 2nd World War, there were some trends, launched for the development of Landscape Architecture :

- There was an influence of ecology on the Landscape Architecture for the consideration of nature and its role in the city's environment.
- The Landscape Architecture is mainly exercised in the formation of urban spaces, and especially Open Public Spaces.
- The increasing number and size of public works and the public recognition of their necessity, helped the consecration of the Urban Landscape Architecture.
- The Modern Movement influenced the Landscape formations under geometric patterns, in a rational spirit of space organization.

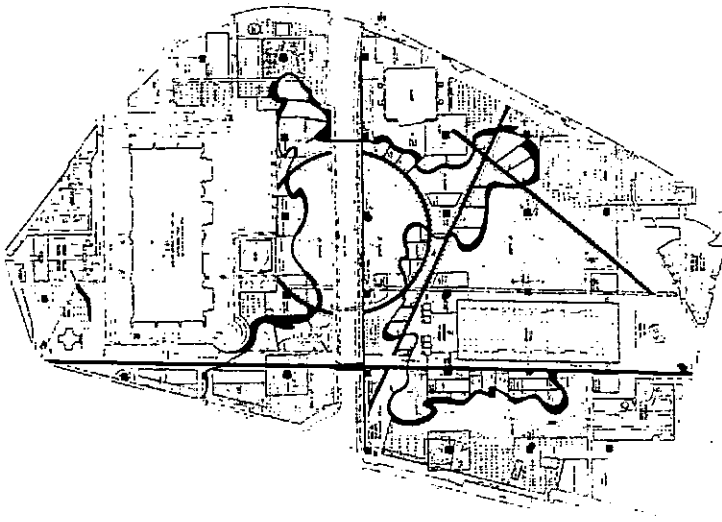
The Garden Towns in England and the "Greater London Plan" (1945) are examples of this tendency.

Another significant project of that period was the project for Chandigarh by Le Corbusier (1950) (Le Corbusier, 1952), where the penetration of a grid of green zones and the use of water were used in extension in the formation of the urban areas of housing, motor traffic, pedestrians and Landscape, in a careful integrated city plan.

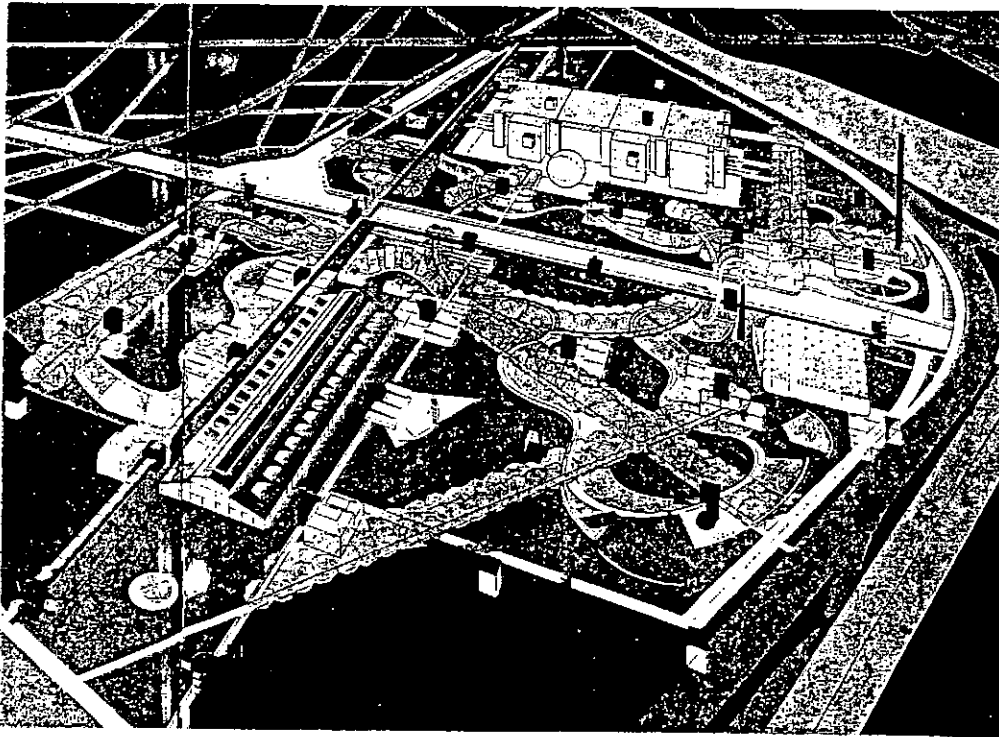
Other Movements which appeared mostly after 1960, are exemplified by International Situationistes (Konard, Debor, 1957), by "Order" (L. Kahn, 1960), by International Design (B. Fuller, 1961), by Spatial Urbanism (J. Friedman, 1962), by Team. X. (G. Candilis, P. Bakema, P. and A. Smithsons, A. van Eyck, 1962), by Metabolism (K. Tange, 1964) etc.

The Modern Movement and Constructivism although had not had the Landscape at the center of their priorities, they helped to clarify meanings as functional dimension, systematization, justification and effectiveness of the Landscape design of urban space (Frampton, 1980). Especially the works of L. Barragan, R. B. Marx, G. Asplund are in these directions, introducing the coloured planting schemes or the possibilities of the architectonic Landscape, of the Modernist geometrical style.

The cityscape of that period (1950-70) has been changing rapidly due to the increase of density and the evolution of town planning, in order to serve the



496. Park de la Villette, Paris (Bernard Tschumi, 1983 to 1992, source Lyall 1992)



497. Park de la Villette, Paris (Bernard Tschumi, 1983 to 1992, source Lyall 1992)

automobile. These two factors have had an awful impact on the character of the cities, as many of the local and historic elements tended to disappear (Frampton, 1980).

During that period, the artificial urban Landscape was often constructed on concrete platforms, like sky – gardens, where geometrical and “biological” (“natural”) forms were used together. The idea of the Landscape as a ecological system in which ecology, topography, vegetation, land use and climate, have a great importance, appeared first in the University of Pensilvania by I. Mc Harg, influencing Landscape Architects.

At that time, Ecology influenced the arts, towards organic formations.

In United States, D. Appleyard, L. Halprin, G. Eckbo, explored the emotional experience and argued the question of the quality of Landscape.

At the same time the modern Urban Park began to develop as a continuation of the Landscape Park of the 19th century and as an escape place from the city activities, as well as the heritage from the English garden tradition and Picturesque Theory. Many Parks of this kind have been created in Central Europe during that period, (Stutgard, Essen, Basel, Paris, etc.), based on rational organization of space, considering also the urban environment, the site, the social needs, and activities.

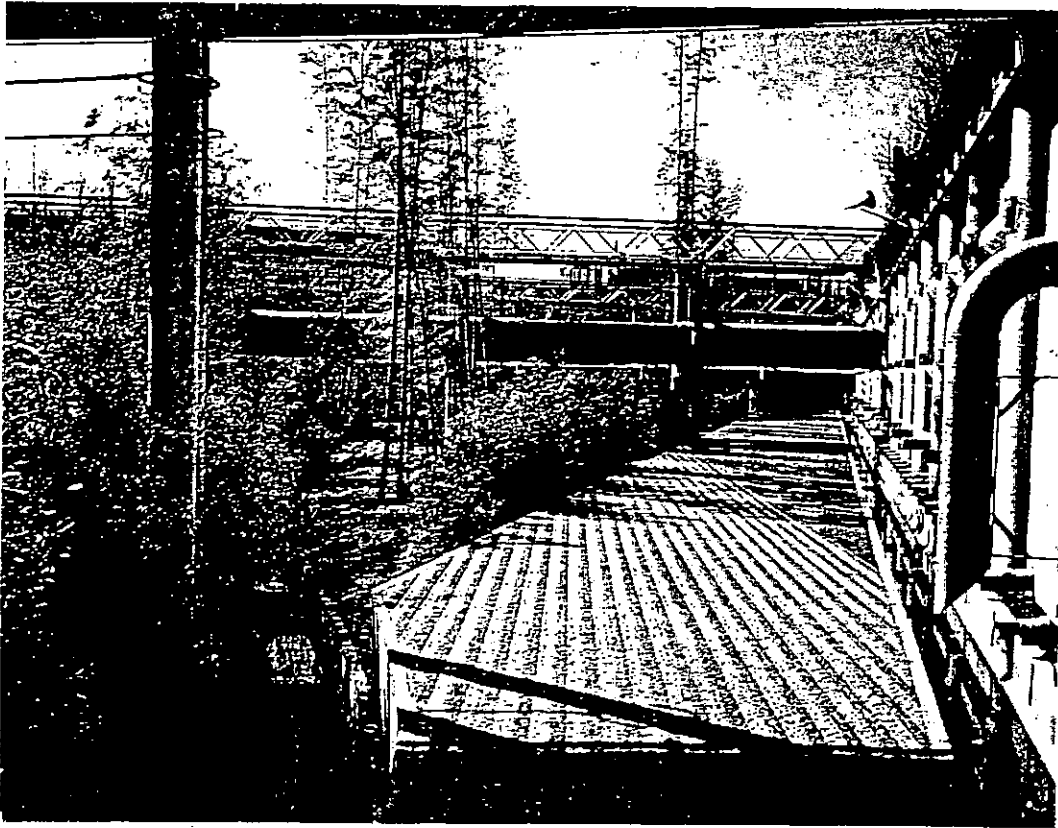
The “Hard Landscape” as a style, is the predominant feature of in these parks, with a “sculptural” Landscape expression, by reforming the ground, and by using the sculpture in the formation of the ground and in all elements used. A typical example is the Park Floral in the Bois de Vincennes.

Great Landscaped estates, public parks, botanical gardens and nature conservation projects, made the profession of Landscape Architecture publicly recognized and accepted in large scale.

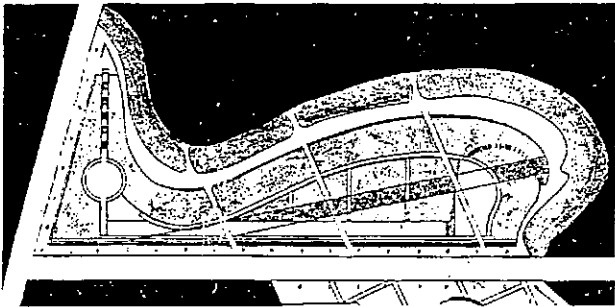
The new clients have been corporations, local and municipal authorities, who wished to create an image to corporate buildings and town centers, and enhance the visual and social poverty of the city.

Functionalism in Landscaping resulted to design of mass landscapes, lifeless urban spaces and parks, although all the parts were well organized.

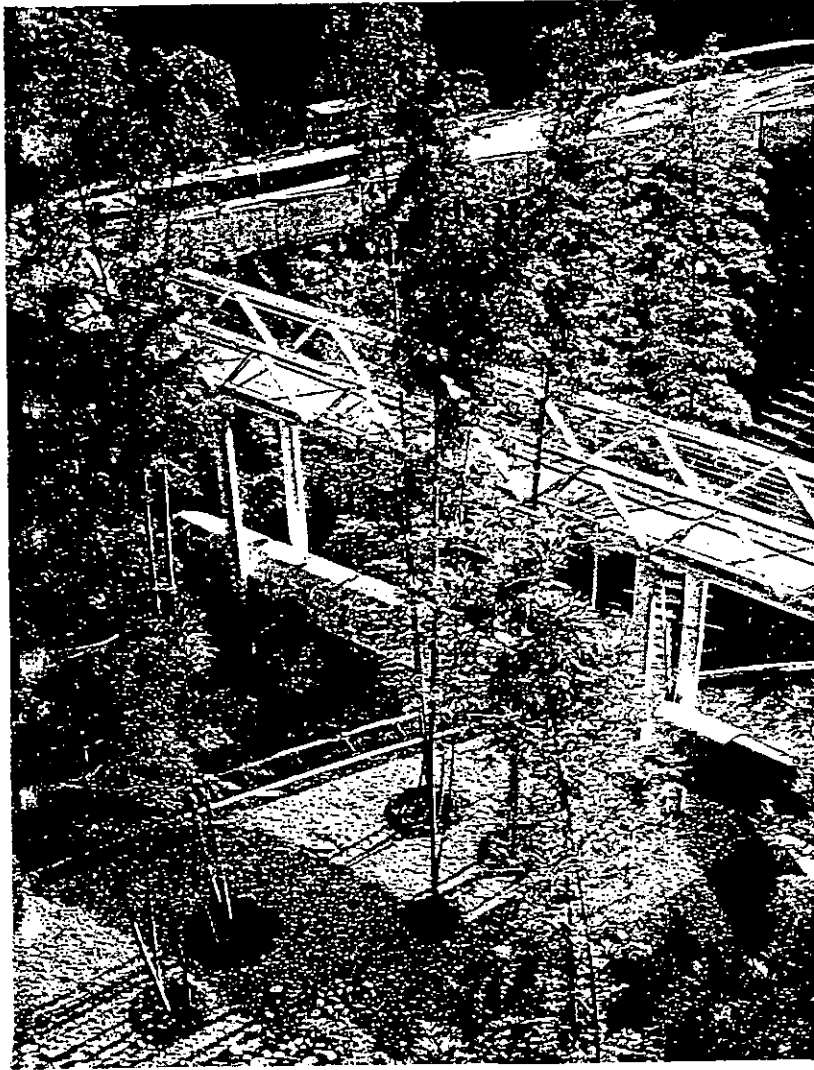
The movement that followed Functionalism and International Style, referred to as Post Modernism, appeared after 1970, as a change of attitude to the environment, that attempted to renew the old fabric of cities, showing an interest of conservation of the cultural heritage, compared to the different approach of that of Modern Movement.



498. The Bamboo Garden, Park de La Villette, Paris (Alexandre Chemetoff, 1987, source Lyall 1992)



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500. The Bamboo Garden, Park de La Villette, Paris (Alexandre Chemetoff, 1987, source Lyall 1992)

Post Modernism tended to provide a large variety of old and new forms, overlooking the large scale of space, and encouraging a new quality of space. Eclecticism, unrelated ordering systems, historicism, irony, metaphor were in use at that time (Klotz, 1988, Jenks 1984). Post Modern thinking attempted to liberate and elevate the individual within the group. Today being delivered from the tyranny of Modern thinking, having exceeded the Post Modernism, and Deconstruction, we are involved simultaneously with High Tech, Minimalism, New Modern, Ecological approach and contemporary superstructures.

Since 1975, the incorporation of art has become part of Urban Design attitude. Painters, sculptors, architects and environmental artists offer a pluralistic landscape of great diversity.

There is a complementary movement of claim for Urban Space, adequate for a pleasant life in the city, that testifies to the quality of environment, and the “regaining” of the Public Space for the pedestrians.

The pedestrian roads in the cities are the result of this period, in an attempt to consist a continuous grid in the whole city.

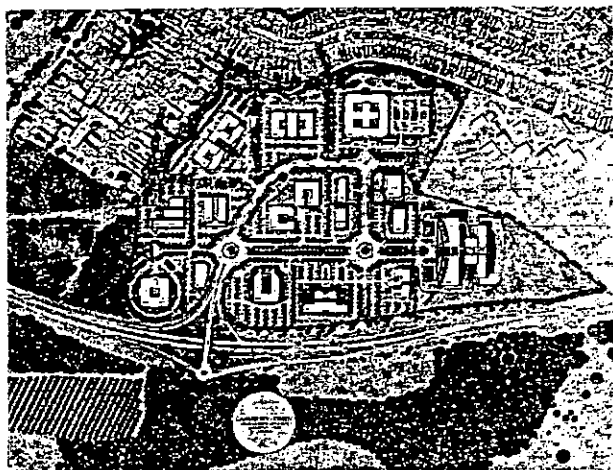
Since 1976, it is recognized that the Open Urban space is not only the void space to receive urban structures, but it is the focal point of interest in the city. The new Landscape often plays a multiple role, including functions for entertainment and play, and participates to the improvement of poor quality environments.

The new concepts of Landscape Architecture, are referred to by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA, 1990) in categories as :

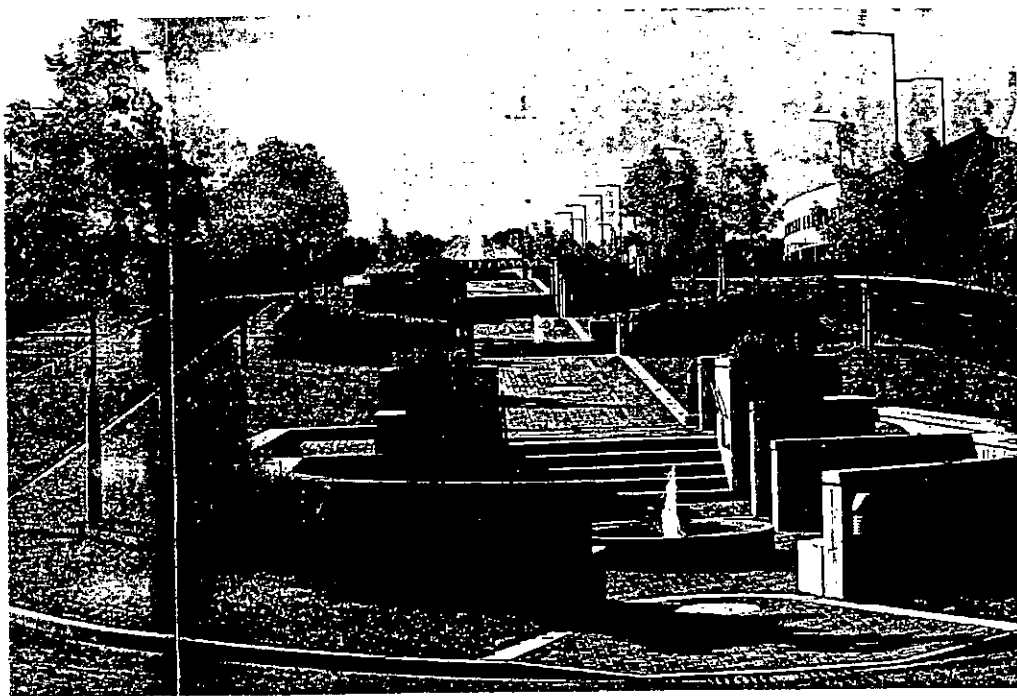
- Creative Environment, as an expression of natural and cultural heritage.
- Landscape of pleasure.
- The Art and Spirit of the Place.

Another approach to the meaning of Landscape today, is that of a “cultural image perceptive in socio – ecological terms, a kind of Contemporary Work of Art” as epitomizing the contemporary thinking (Ananiadou, 1992).

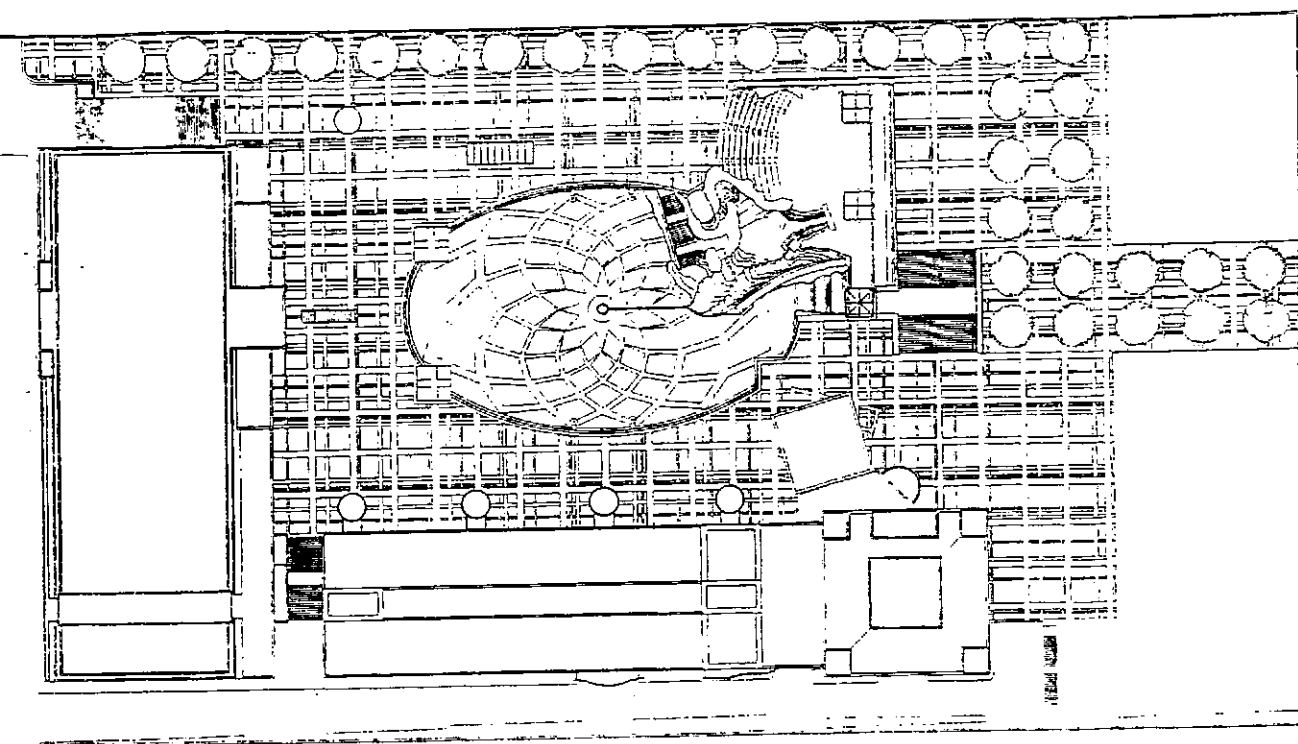
The Park of la Villette, by Bernard Tschumi (1985) is an example of the “Deconstruction” tendency of Architecture expressed in organizing the whole area by three independent systems (lines, surfaces, points) that are overlapping each other, and correspond to circulation’s, spaces, objects which form the place, to follow the traditional principles of the composition.



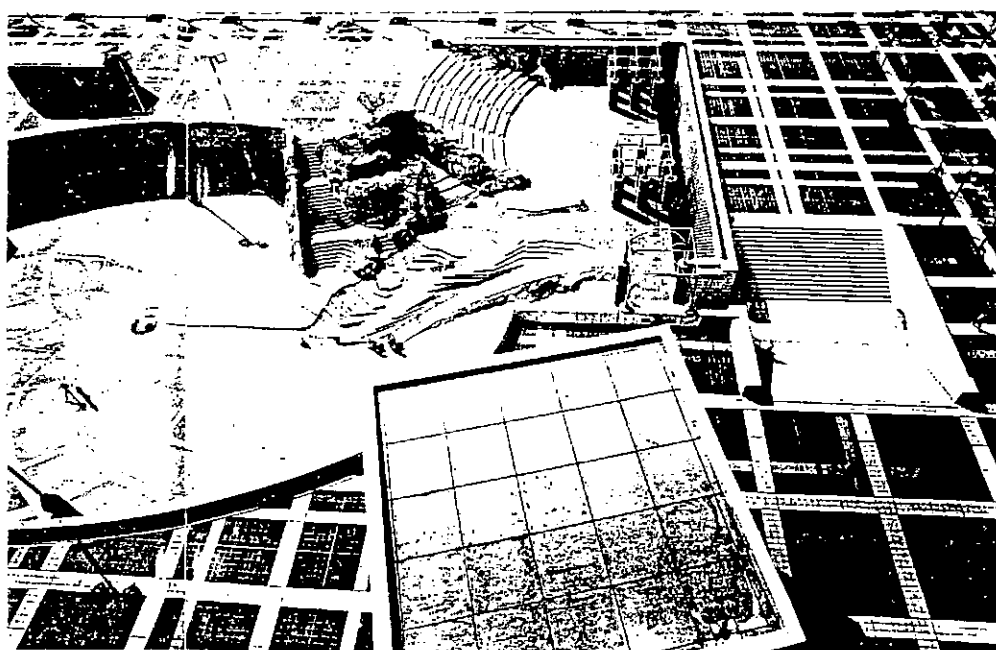
501. Capability Green, Bedfordshire (Robert Halprin, 1987, source Lyall 1992)



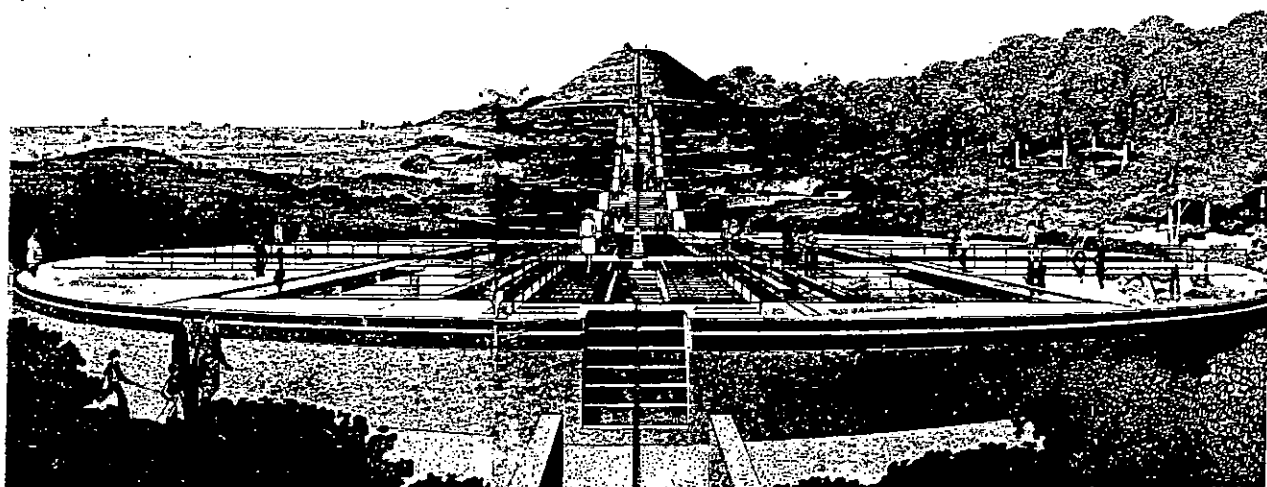
502. Capability Green, Bedfordshire (Robert Halprin, 1987, source Lyall 1992)



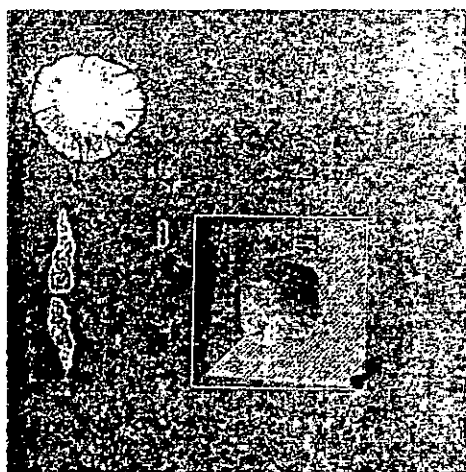
503. Tsukuba Civic Center, Japan (Arata Isozaki, 1983 source Lyall 1992)



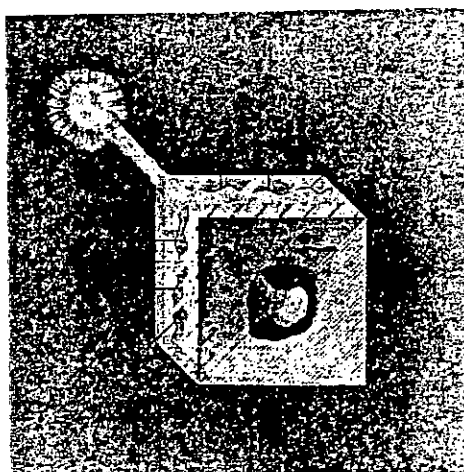
504. Tsukuba Civic Center, Japan (Arata Isozaki, 1983, source Lyall 1992)



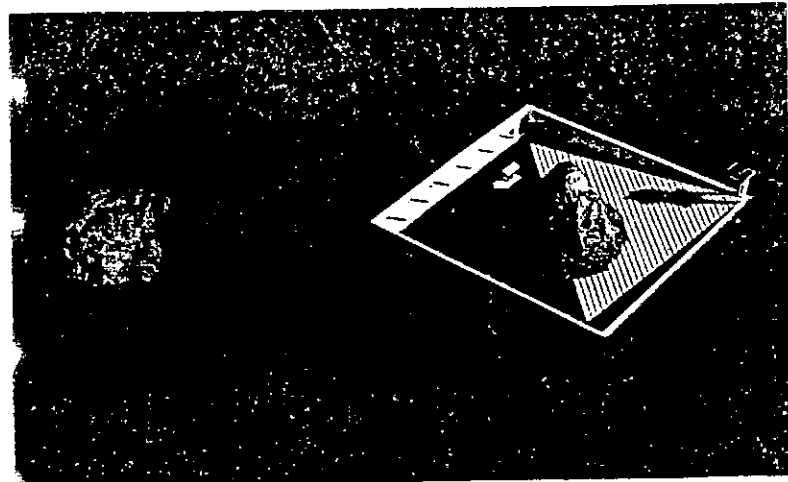
505. Milton Keynes city Centre Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (Andrew Mahaddie, 1975, source Lyall 1992)



506. Emilio's Folly: Man is an Island
(Emilio Ambasz, 1983, source Lyall 1992)



507. Emilio's Folly: Man is an Island
(Emilio Ambasz, 1983, source Lyall 1992)



508. Emilio's Folly: Man is an Island (Emilio Ambasz, 1983, source Lyall 1992)

The following of the evolution and changes of city life and the appropriate formation of the urban Landscape, is an approach expressed by the reformation of the open spaces of Grand Louvre, in Paris, by I.M. Pei, with the crystal Pyramid consisting the new entrance to the museum and also organizing the whole Open Public Space in this part of Paris, is a landmark.

Another concept is that of a gesture of intervention in a certain place of the landscape, and its image and history, exemplified by Tadao Ando's proposal for the Hokkaido Valley as an inset of geometry into the natural landscape.

In other cases Landscape Architects work in a poetic and allegorical way.

Other contemporary themes include geometry as repetition for emphasis, while schemes to look forward to the future, include Jamie Liversedge's work on a major educational plaza in Arnhem, Netherlands.

Today Landscape Architecture is applied in areas that can be categorized as below :

- Post – industrial areas.
- Parks and recreation areas.
- Ecology and nature conservation.
- Urban design and housing.
- Offices and institutions' areas (Holden, 1996).

These categories allow interesting groupings to reveal the development of Landscape Architecture. In these kinds of projects the relationship between architecture and Landscape has been modified, i.e. the design is a collaborative effort between all members of the design team.

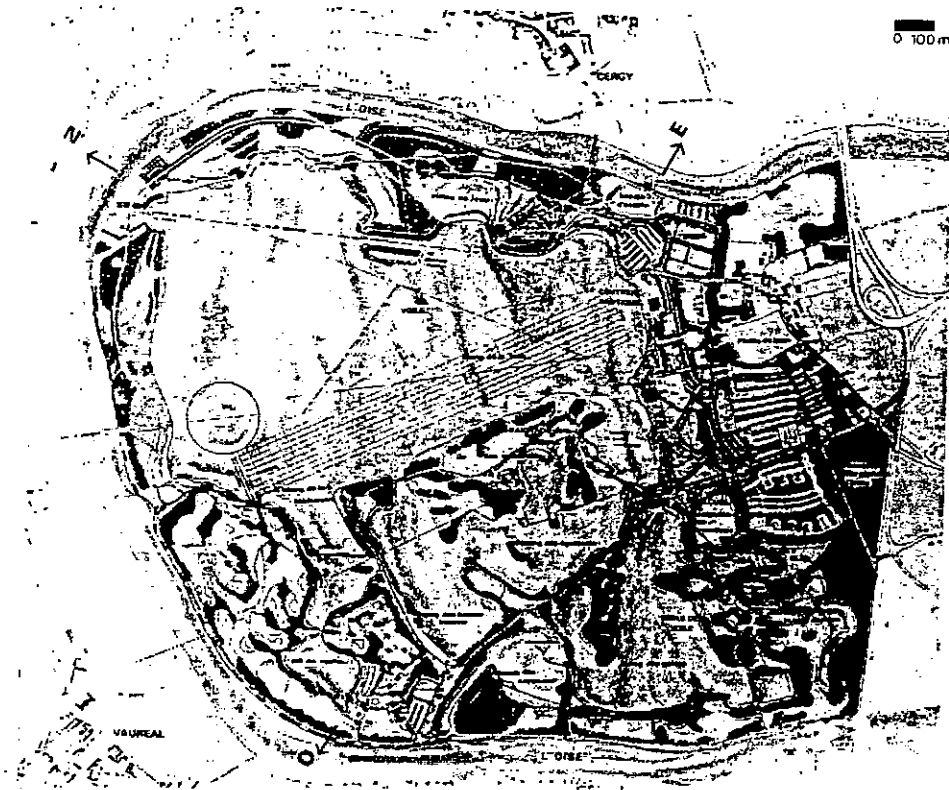
There is a deep concern about the future of the 19th and 20th century industrial and commercial areas, which go out of use.

The Park del Litoral of Barcelona by Martorell, Bohigas and Mackay, is a rejuvenating old dock area by means of open space development.

Although created in different conditions and concepts, the contemporary Landscape projects have some common characteristics :

"There is one fundamental characteristic common to all : the imaginative landscape extends beyond what the eye sees and the body enjoys".

"The really significant landscapes of present and future times are without question the collective".



509. Base de Plain Air et Loisirs, Cergy Neuville, Val d' Oise, France, (API, 1974 to 1990, source Lyall 1992)



510. Base de Plain Air et Loisirs, Cergy Neuville, Val d' Oise, France, (API, 1974 to 1990, source Lyall 1992)

"No wonder that landscape design may well become total, and may soon supersede architecture as the mother of the arts". (G. Jellicoe 1991) (Lyll, 1992).

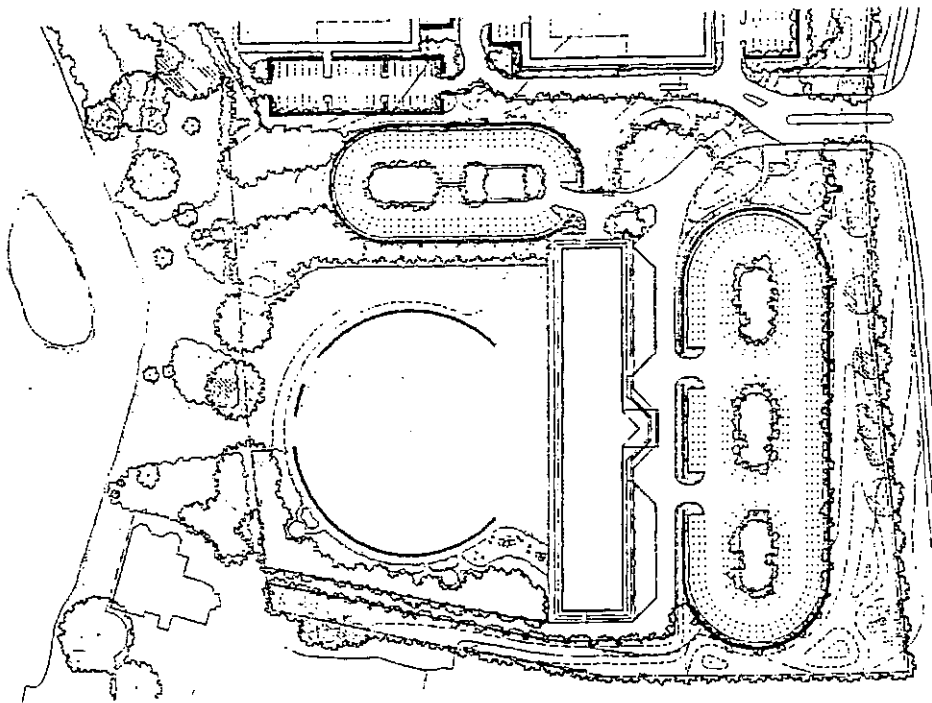
The new tendencies of Landscape Architecture, as grouped by S. Lyall are the following :

- The Response to the Urban Sense Examples : Seattle Freeway Park (L. Halprin), Piazza d' Italia, New Orleans (Ch. Moore), Jardins de Turia, Valencia, Spain (Taller de Architecture).
- The Perception of the Cultural Context. Examples : Sutton Place, Surrey (Sir G. Jellicoe) Park de la Corderie Royale, Rochefort, France (B. Lassus), Claremont, Surrey (The National Trust).
- The Structured Landscape. Examples : Parc de la Villette, Paris (B. Tschumi). Bamboo Garden Park de la Villette, Paris (Al. Chemetoff), Fountain Plazza, Dallas (D. Kiley).
- The Relation to Architecture. Examples "Capability Green, Redfordshire, UK (R. Holden). Tsukuba Civic Center, Japan (A. Isozaki), Stock Park, London (A rup Associates).
- The subjective Vision. Examples : Man is an Island (E. Ambasz), Milton Keynes City Center Park (A. Mahaddie).
- The Reconsideration of Nature. Examples : Base de Plein Air, Cergy Neuville, France (API) Broadwater Park, Denham (P. Jacobsen).

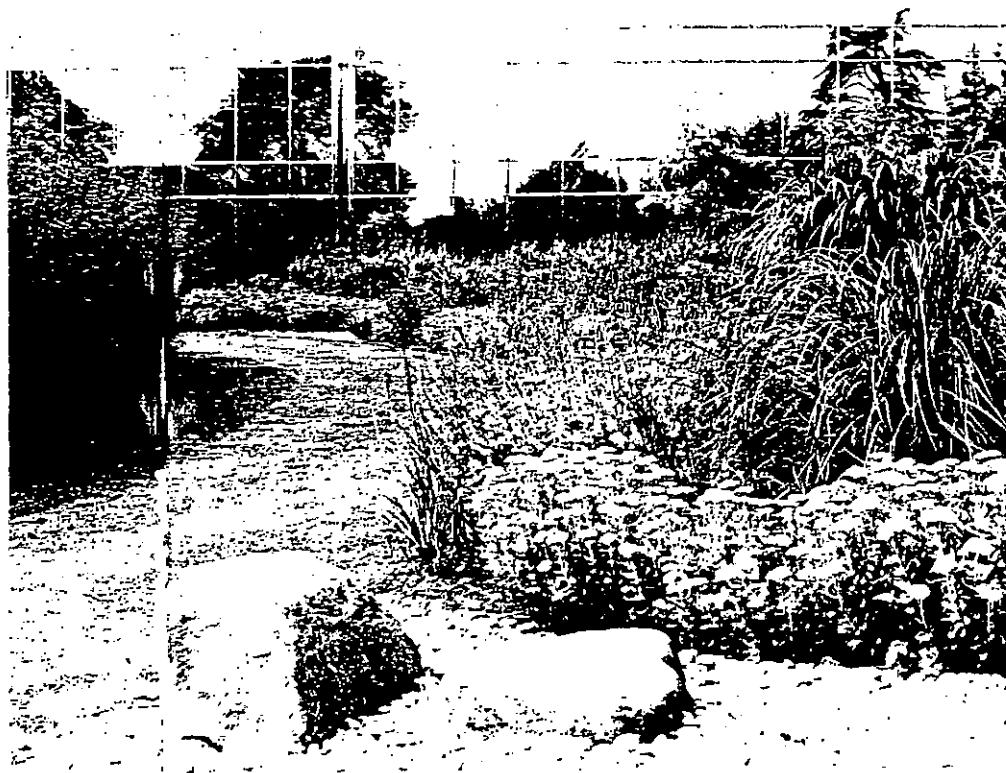
The conclusions from the examples presented above, is that nowadays the Urban Landscape comprising the Open Public Spaces, is a meaning much more intricate than it used to be in other phases of its history.

Today there are still some items that cause certain problems to Landscape Architecture, e.g :

- The pursuit of a perceptual integration of urban Landscape.
- The effort to achieve the totality and continuity of urban Landscape.
- Creative use of the experiences of open spaces.
- The open space of the city has become a structured expression of social and cultural changes of the character of the city, their historic heritage, the natural landscape, the local characteristics, in order to be a qualified place for contemporary life and "legible" by the inhabitants.
- The quality of public spaces has to be redefined in relation to the build environment.



511. Broadwater Park, Benham Buckinghamshire (Preben Jacobsen 1985, source Lyall 1992)



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512. Broadwater Park, Benham Buckinghamshire (Preben Jacobsen 1985, source Lyall 1992)

- The spatial organization, the plastic and architectural character and the artistic intervention are necessary factors.
- The spatial properties of the urban and natural Landscape and the site have to be taken into consideration in order to search “the spirit of the place” and identify its new image (Norbert – Schulz 1970).
- Landscape Architecture has a crucial role to play in shaping our future environment comprising both buildings and Landscape.
- Landscape Architecture theories and debates shape and challenge conventional concepts about urban space.
- Exciting creative and responsible Landscape design solutions are needed for a wide range of human activities, today and in the future.
- Architecture and landscape design are creative intellectual activities with a significant contribution in an increasingly varied professional and design world.

5.2.2. Comparison of Athenian and European Open Public Spaces

It is a difficult task, if not impossible, to compare Athenian and European Open Public Spaces, because their creation and development and therefore their characteristics and generative factors, such as Landscape, Social, Historical, economic and political factors, level of technology, and technique, tradition etc, are different.

For example, the large 19th century Open Public Spaces in Paris, Created by the French Monarchy and applied by G. Haussmann’s interventions in Paris urban fabric, for organizational and sanitary reasons and in order to provide a new city image to the State and the bourgeois class, has nothing common with Athens as a new capital, created in an almost bare landscape with a small town under the Acropolis Rock.

The only item in common, was the Neoclassical style being in use in Europe during this period, which was transferred in Greece by the Bavarians and the spirit of the 19th Century, European Town Planning, incorporated in the first Town Plan.

As far as the size of Open Public Spaces in Athens, and the related buildings, are concerned, the Greek State’s restricted financial possibilities did not allow for large structures. Besides, the size of the whole town was related to the low numbers of population. Consequently, Athenian Open Public Spaces could not be compared with

the splendour of Open Public Spaces in Paris, London, or Berlin, for instance, expressing the States' Power.

A critical item in Open Public Spaces development is whether the Society's need to preserve its culture and architectural heritage expressed in city's spaces, is stronger than its need for novelty and innovation.

For example Rome, Paris, London have preserved, large entities of their built environment despite pressures for changes, ensuring the historical continuity of the city, whereas in Athens the socio-political situation following the world War II combined with economic recession created the city's reconstruction based on the "Antiparochi" system.

This caused the replacement of the Neoclassical city by another one, without Architectural and Spatial recognizable values and insufficient infrastructure. In that way the homogeneity of character of the Athenian Open Public Spaces, which was evident until the '50s, was lost, contrary to European cities in which this feature was maintained.

Today's image of Athenian Open Public Spaces is of a mixture of building's styles and elements of various periods, with the catalytic presence of advertisements.

During the recent 25 years, European cities have undergone the consequences of the de-industrialization, which produced the large vacant spaces, though convenient to be converted into useful urban environments according to new needs, most of them related to Parks, recreation and culture.

The Park de la Villette or the Park Citroen in Paris, as well as the Park del Litoral and the large ex-industrial coastal area in Barcelona, which was reorganized in sight of the 1996 Olympic games are examples of contemporary large reformations, in order to offer these spaces for inhabitant's use. In Athens such large reformations will be the Unification of the coastal area in Falirio, the rehabilitation of the area of Elliniko airport and the related coastal area, the Goudi Park etc.

These large Landscape Design Programmes need special efforts in order to overstep pressures and difficulties derived from the complexity of the programme, to pursue perceptual integration, to achieve totality and continuity creative use of various experiences and interesting conceptual schemes.

As these factors are predominant in today's perception, these future Athenian Open Public Spaces are expected to be of a complicate character, but hopefully interesting and functional.

5.4. Conclusions

Athens combines many prerequisites for one of the most pleasant cities to live in.

The natural Landscape in which it has been built, is a beautiful basin surrounded by low height green mountains, on the east, west and north sides, with connections to Pireaus Port, and to Messogia area towards the east and on the south it is washed by the Saronic Sea. The quiet valley is interrupted by low hills and small rivers, creating a very pleasant landscape.

Since the Antiquity, the city of Athens has been enriched with many architectural monuments of an international radiance, while in its recent period has acquired excellent public and private buildings.

However, the development of the city of Athens and its Open Public Spaces as a social product in the recent decades from the environmental, structural and cultural point of view, has been a disappointing one. The main problems have been caused by the type of human interventions and planning choices.

For example :

1. Since the beginning in 1834, L.Von Klenze's interventions in Kleanhtis – Schaubert plan, by narrowing streets, eliminating squares, boulevards etc and by destroying relationships between important spaces, caused a downgrading of an excellent, for those circumstances, plan, in order to reduce landowners' protests. This had a negative impact on all Open Public Spaces of the city.
2. The various city's expansions, as the city was steadily increasing in population and size, were never planned with a long-term prospect of the city's future organization. Plans were too shortsighted, just for the servicing of the pressing needs. However, there were many proposals, since the beginning (Leloudas, Hoffmann, Mawson etc) and also during the mid-War and post-War Periods, (Doxiadis, Candilis, Municipality of Athens, Biris etc) which, although different in concept, provided a wide range of alternatives and integrated solutions.
3. Significant historical events, such as the Minor Asia Disaster, with the abrupt increase of city's population, the needs for shelter and employment, although faced effectively, had hard consequences on Open Public Spaces, as they caused new city expansions and damaged the natural environment and downgraded the quality of urban space.

4. The elimination of natural elements, such as Ilissos, Kifissos and other rivers, by their conversion into arterial roads, while they should be formed as green zones penetrating in the urban fabric with public uses and the destruction of the natural environment of hills and mountains by the operation of quarries, had negative impacts on Open Public Spaces.
5. During the Post-War period, the policy of the city's reconstruction with the "Antiparochi" system, combined with very high Plot Ratio Coefficients destroyed almost completely the existing built environment and created a new one, with quite different space characteristics. Moreover, there was not a broader area of the Historical Center, characterized as preservable (except for Plaka), in order to save some city's areas from destruction.
6. The Dictatorship increased even more the plot Ratio Coefficients and permitted the first high – rise buildings, in an attempt to promote investments.
7. There were wrong decisions and policies in Regional Planning, resulting in population concentration in Athens, with the relevant aggravation of the city's environment.
8. Since the beginning there were wrong estimations about industrial development and its placing in relation to the city (e.g. Gazi). This created unlimited problems in environments' destruction and downgrading excellent landscapes and residential areas.

The present day situation of the Open Public Spaces in Athens has been analyzed, and only a few things have to be mentioned :

- The "continuity" in the city's evolution related to Open Public Spaces and economic sector, expressed by :
- The resurgence of building constructions with apartment buildings in the whole area of Athens basin, the expansion of arbitrary constructions in the western part of the city, and the industry and its function in the eastern part of Attica (Messogia).
- The development of industries and buildings of tertiary sector along the big axes in the whole space of Attica.
- The pollution and destruction of natural landscape in every field :
 - destruction of green areas in the urban space

- devastation of forests around the city .
 - pollution of the atmosphere by industries and private cars, of the sea and water by sewage, and of the ground by waste, etc.
- The change of climate, caused by the above alterations, created extreme situations.

If the same political, economic, and social conditions continue, the situation will become non reversible.

At the beginning of the 21st century, we are faced with new social and economic conditions, caused by the evolution of technology, which affects many aspects of social and city life.

On the other hand, the Organization of the 2004 Olympic Games, is an occasion for the decisive improvement of the city's structure, function and image, and the upgrading of the city's infrastructure, in order to be adequate for today's size and future needs. For instance, the position of the new Athens Airport in the Messogia region will surely attract a new town around it and will change all the Urban relationships.

As far as the image and the character of the city and the Open Public Spaces are concerned, the problems are related to :

- The way of development, the condensing of central areas, the uncontrolled city expansions to all directions, the arbitrary constructions, and the lack of infrastructure.
- The high degree of land exploitation.
- The cutting of the private land to small properties, causing difficulties in planning.

The natural landscape has been altered by the city's expansions, by construction volumes inadequate to Attic landscape and by quarry activities.

The green areas around the city, covering the hills and the mountains have been decreased, by construction activities and by fires, while the strong natural elements of rivers and streams have been filled up in most cases.

The urban greenery is not equally distributed in the Urban Space, leaving large regions without any greenery, and this fact, in association with the high density in many central areas, has resulted in the fragmentation of the image of the city.

The lack of Open Public Spaces and green areas in the Municipality of Athens, is one of the reasons which caused the shifting of residences to the suburbs, since 1970s.

The pollution of the atmosphere, in combination with the bad constructions, with absence of aesthetics in many cases have created an inhospitable environment. In such an Urban Space, the Open Public Spaces are also unpleasant, and to some extent, they have lost their social role as places for assemblies and social contacts.

On the other hand, the inhabitants' behaviour concerning the city's environment and especially to the Open Public Spaces, is not the appropriate one (lack of respect to architectural heritage, elimination of green areas, production of buildings of low quality etc), showing a lack of respect related to city matters and common life.

However, the present day situation of the Open Public Spaces of Athens presents some positive elements from the social point of view, as the multi leveled social structure, still comprising a composition of different social and cultural characteristics of the residents, related to productive activities and services.

This social structure connected with the space, which in the case of some other large cities tends to disappear, is a factor that contributes to the liveliness of the Public Space in Athens. For instance, Omonia square is a place of contact of various social and cultural events, and also Victoria's square and Psiri square as well as various streets the Gazohori spaces, which include such characteristics.

On the other hand, the increasing needs for parking areas in the center, due to the growing circulation of automobiles, led to wrong decisions for the construction of Car Parks under the squares, a fact that will delete the remaining green areas and eliminate the social spaces.

There is a tendency for occupation by the Municipalities of precious open spaces in order to "upgrade" and "exploit" the space, within the context of reformation of districts or central areas, but this would lead to the undermining of the social constitution of these areas.

There are also certain phenomena which are obvious in our contemporary individualistic and consuming society, caused by the degrading of the public taste, the decline of handicrafts, the neo-urban haste and lack of culture, and the production of vulgar buildings.

In the Open Public Space nowadays, there is an impersonal craftsmanship, while the truths and possibilities of the society and the creative spirit of our times are rarely expressed.

The climate of Athens, permits the long stay and the activity of social life in open spaces, and the contact with nature, all the year around but this custom has not been utilized by the authorities and the designers of the Open Public Spaces.

As time goes on, the Open Public Spaces of Athens have been changed, and they have lost their relationships and continuity with the open private spaces of the houses' yards. The balance with a low rise built environment of homogeneous neoclassical character, that permits the sunlight to come to narrow roads, and the quiet use of them by the inhabitants, has been disturbed.

They also lost their relationship with the natural environment, and a part of their plantation, due to constructing activity and the widening of roads for circulation needs.

The augmentation of the building density and the increase of the population, destroyed the Urban fabric and the homogeneity of the districts.

The Open Public Spaces today suffer from the noise, the heavy load of traffic circulation, the pollution etc.

The city's expansion established the use of private cars as a necessity and as a medium of social rise, which removed the nature from the city.

The adequacy of the Open Public Spaces in Athens had been preserved until the 1950s, despite the continuous political changes, and population increase.

Since that period, the balance between the Open Public Spaces of Athens and the built and natural environment has been lost, and the inadequacy of these spaces on social, functional and structural level is admitted by the Authorities and the citizens.

As Athens continues to change, efforts have been made to preserve not only the historical antiquities of the city, but its neoclassical past as well.

The preservation of the Open Public Spaces as the National Garden and other Parks and elements of the natural environment, are clearly included in the delineation of the Cultural and Historic map of the city.

Despite all the above defects, there are still many possibilities for design interventions in order to improve the quality of the Open Public Spaces of Athens.

These spaces are of great importance for the quality of every day life in Athens, and of great significance for the cultural life and self knowledge of the citizens, and their Common Consciousness and Social Integrity.

Therefore, it should be a collective attempt by many Authorities, individuals associations, scientists, architects, Landscape Architects, artists etc., for the

improvement of the quality of the Open Public Spaces of Athens, so that they become deserving the history of the city.

5.5. Recommendations

Derived from the Examination, the Assessment and the Conclusions of the Athenian Open Public Spaces, the following issues are recommended:

During the whole process, Open Public Spaces should be considered as unified and continuous, the space of movement and circulation of city life and the medium of city's perception and coherence. Open Public Space is considered as social and political space and as the carrier of meanings and facts.

Moreover, Open Public Space should be perceived as the material for the formulation of time and as historical evidence or as a continuous dynamic movement, being under continuous change.

For the elaboration of a Strategy concerning the Open Public Spaces of Athens, some items are of first priority :

- The provision of additional Open Natural Spaces with greenery, privately or publicly owned.
- The creation and function of a collective extensive and socially differentiated grid of Open Public Spaces.
- The upgrading interventions made to the urban fabric, must be an open and flexible approach, socially sensitive, perceiving and recognizing the functions, the users and their experiences, the daily relationships and historical background.
- The mere technocratic, architectural abstract attitude, concentrated only to the formation of the space, isolated from the collective conception of the space, may lead to wrong decisions.
- An attempt must be made, for the decrease of the plot ratio coefficients and building heights and the increase of Open Public Spaces.
- The addition of new built volume should be avoided, by the restoration and use of old buildings.
- The restoration of any old buildings of certain aesthetic value is necessary.

- Green areas, such as Hills, Public Parks, Gardens should be protected by legislative acts, as far their boundaries and functions are concerned.
- The above areas must be carefully maintained and upgraded in order to conserve their character, as they consist part of city's History.
- The sufficient Plantation of Open Public Spaces such as squares and pedestrian roads must also be attempted.
- The city center should acquire a continuous grid of pedestrian roads, squares and other open public spaces of environmental quality and with multifunctional uses, projecting the existing valuable elements, such as buildings, natural elements, views etc and creating new functions and relationships among the Open Public Space, the Natural environment and the inhabitants.
- The circulation of cars, at least in the Central areas, must be restricted, by the use of Public Transportation. The use of Public Space by pedestrians must be reinforced by the creation of an attractive urban environment, in order to reinstate the city center to the inhabitant or visitor.

The substantial improvement of the circulation problem is critical for the perception and evaluation of the remarkable spatial aesthetic and cultural elements of the city.

The quality of Athens' Open Public Spaces is directly related to the improvement of the quality of the urban environment at many levels. For an operation combining the urban Space and Open Public Spaces, the priorities should comprise the following:

- Completion of major circulation works, which are of great importance to the function of the Athens' Metropolitan area, and the prompt extensions of the Metro lines, in order for the city to acquire an integrated transportation system.
- Completion of the works for the Unification of Archaeological Spaces and projection of the city's Historical Image. Reformation of the natural landscape related to Archaeological spaces.
- Restoration and of the historic buildings of certain architectural value. The quality of the buildings is reflected in the quality of the Open Public Space.
- Reformation of the most significant Open Public Spaces, such as the main traffic arteries and Squares, by the redesigning of space and the replantation and reconstruction of the various elements such as pavement, sidewalks, street furniture etc.

- Special attention should be paid to the interventions in Historic areas such as Plaka, Thissio, Psiri, Metaxourgio etc., in which the majority of the traditional buildings and the relationships between the built environment and the Public Space still remain. The study of Plaka (reformations, land uses, pedestrian roads etc), is a good example for the conservation of a historic part of the Urban Space.
- An extensive programme for the conservation and expansion of the city's Green areas should be elaborated and applied. The significant green areas, such as the National Garden, Zappion, Mars' Field, Ardittos, Lycabetus, Strefi and Philopappou hills and the Attic Grove should be reinforced, and interventions for quality improvement should be attempted.
- In already constructed areas as these of Athens, the interventions' target should be towards the change of functions of Open Public Spaces (roads, squares etc), to the benefit of pedestrians and greenery (creation of pedestrian roads, playgrounds, prohibition of car circulation or parking, increase of green areas etc).
- An attempt must be made for the creation of continuous networks of Open Spaces, although on an economic and legislative level this is rather difficult task. In new city expansions, these are various possibilities for acquisition and formation of new Public and Green Spaces by actions based on the Law 1337/83 which provides the legislative framework for handling such issues.
- The evolution and formation of the "new" Parks such as in Goudi, the Park for Environmental Education in Ag. Anargyri, and the creation of green areas on hills excavated by old quarries (Strefi, Salepitsari, Petroupolis, Byron etc) should be completed, combining cultural and leisure activities.
- Special studies should be elaborated for the lighting and projection of the city's landmarks, such as significant buildings, Monuments, Parks, hills, squares, main streets, archeological sites, etc.
- The Street Furniture Equipment must consist of a whole of integrated and recognizable designed objects.
- All the above issues should be faced in conjunction to an extremely important matter : The conception of the special character of each space, in relation to the city's broader Historical and natural environment.
- A Methodology should be used in order to implement the above mentioned issues in the Design of Open Public Spaces

- For the design of an Open Public Space, it is necessary to prepare an analysis of its elements, its characteristics and functional relationships, which make it recognizable, in order to make possible the projection of its values.

In order to perceive the composite notion and character of the Open Public Space, its characteristics should be considered, which are referring to three groups :

The first group of characteristics concern :

The functions of the specific Open Public Space and its relationships with the other city spaces :

- The correlation of the space with the natural, and historical landscape and the identified relationships.
- The correlation of this space with the other city spaces as continuation of certain functions and characteristics.
- The identification of specific functions which are included in the Space and their significance for the users.
- Identification of all activities that take place in that space.

The second group of characteristics concern :

- The Importance of the Space, such as its significance, relevance and meaning to the City.
- Its possible symbolic dimensions.
- The possibility of the space to function in reference to a certain event, as a "monument".
- The possibility of the space to become an object of conscious or unconscious knowledge.
- The cultural significance of urban space.

The third group of characteristics concern:

- The meaning of the space itself.
- The existence of the space as a real and concrete substance, independently existing from the above functions, activities and relationships.
- Recognition and representation of the sense of vacuum of the space, its limits and its stable and temporary elements and characteristics.
- The elements that influence the perception of the Open Public Space and contribute to the elevation of its physiognomy and character and its particularity (Genius Loci) arise from the analysis and recognition of the natural and man-made environment.

- As far as Open Public Spaces related to natural environment are concerned, e.g. the hills of Lycabettus, Attic Grove, Ardittos, a part of the Acropolis and Pnyka, etc. the analysis should contain elements of geology, the ground's relief, and natural forms, topography related to slopes, the earth, the hydrological characteristics, the plantation etc. The land uses of these areas should be very carefully planned in order not to disturb the dominating natural character of the Park with inadequate uses.
- The handling of Attic Landscape should be very careful, so that its topography and its physiognomy remain recognizable. The kind of plants to be used should be adequate for the ground and the climate of the area.
- The possibilities for creation of large spaces of Urban Green areas within the city are very restricted. The few occasions remaining and should be utilized, are the slopes of the mountains around the city, (Hymettus, Penteli, Parnitha, Egaleo) and the hills in the Athens basin.
- More important is of course, the improvement of the Open Public Spaces by the increase of their size, as the widening of road width, the creation of new squares and in general, the addition of new public spaces to the city.
- The attempt must be about the creation of continuous nets of Open Spaces, although this is a rather difficult task, on the economic and legislative level. As far as the new city expansions, are concerned, there are various possibilities for acquisition and formation of new Open Public Spaces, by manipulations based on the Law 1337/83, which provides the legislative framework for the handling of problems of this kind.

As far as the Street Furniture Equipment is concerned, the elements should obey to the coherence of the general geometric organization and composition of space, and to the general concept of the space.

These elements are parts of the general complex network of relationships, between forms and are considered according to their shape, colour, texture, material size, scale, construction etc.

Each element of space must be designed as an original part of a whole, in other words, as a part of a cultural project created through innovative and creating ideas, in order to promote the pleasure of being there, together with other people,

experiencing culture and amusement, expressed by a space designed to meet the requirements of a contemporary society.

The handling of these elements should be according to the general concept of architectural organization to which they belong, and also to the "Spirit of the Place". An integrated system of "objects" should service and please the inhabitant, and also satisfy standards of design and space organization, so that forms, colours, materials, scale of "objects", be coordinated to each other and to the general character of space.

The position of each "object" should not disturb the circulation of pedestrians or the function of other equipment.

The objects should be of clear, distinctive function, and be combined to more complex units, and avoid the high density of them. The positioning of these "objects" should be coordinated with the formations, shapes and tracings of other elements and not be discrepancy between them.

A Methodology should also be used in order to implement the above mentioned issues, and effectively promote the Organization and Management of the new, as well as the regeneration of the existing Open Public Spaces. It is suggested that a department should be set up in a joint effort between the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works, the Municipality of Athens and National Technical University.

This Department should be authorized to plan integrated schedules and designs and assign, coordinate studies and constructions of Open Public Spaces, in order to avoid isolated actions by various authorities.

The existing legal system allows for the participation of scientific and socio-economic Chambers in the assumption and implementation of the decisions concerning the Open Public Spaces. With regard to the management of the Open Public Spaces items it is suggested that the following actions are needed :

- formation and staffing of an Advisory Council.
- creation of a Consultative Committee.

It is expected that the suggested measures and projects will affect the socio-economic livelihood and the quality of Athens' Open Public Spaces.

6. APPENDICES

6.1. Appendix 1.

6.1.1. The European Union's directives about the expected role of Architects in shaping the city's environment.

Trying to find out the most condensed whole of ideas about the today's problems in our cities and what the role of the architects and landscape architects would be, I concentrated mostly on what the European Council of Town Planners and the Architect's Council of Europe have expressed, as the outcome of the evolution of the technical, philosophical, scientific, and practical thoughts about facing the immense and ever changing problems of the cities, at the end of 20th century.

The European Union has recognized the importance of improving the urban environment and the quality of life as a whole.

This has been expressed in a number of EU programmes and initiatives, as the European Campaign for Sustainable Cities and Towns.

For the future, cities should be improved by a variety of social factors. It is needed, that new patterns of urban activities, must be created to meet cultural and social requirements.

The European Council of Town Planners attempts to clarify to circumstances of life in today's cities and refers to a number of problems (European Council of Town Planners 1997) :

- Demographic
- Accessibility (transported traffic problems, car increase).
- Environmental (Pollution, standards), stating that : "There will be a need to protect... open spaces, and the networks of green areas in and around cities".
- Economic (economic changes, telecommunications).
- Social.

The conclusion is, that the sustainable city and the concern of the environment must be a priority, related with main factors as *"air quality, noise, traffic housing quality and the access to, and extend of, green areas and open spaces"*.

Among the Recommendations we find that : *"Efforts should be made to conserve, supplement, and reinforce the network of open spaces, parks and play areas within cities.*

The network should be connected through "green corridors" to natural areas on the periphery of the city>

And further *"Planning should safeguard the traditional elements of urban environment, including buildings, historic quarters, open spaces and green areas".*

In Principles for Planning it is mentioned among others : *"Planning must respect the need to maintain the quality and biodiversity in the natural environment, and to promote the quality and the appreciation of urban design in the built environment; and to manage the interface between the two with sensitivity"* (European Council of Town Planners 1997).

In *"Europe and Architecture tomorrow"* there is a reference to today's items as :

- Europe and Architecture today.
- Social life and Architecture (social and cultural life, Building and Architecture, the interests of Society and Building the external environment).
- Economic life and Architecture.
- Political life and Architecture.

Among others it is noted about the city's environment :

- *"Respect regional cultural, and promote the use of local urban landscape materials.*
- *Vastly increase the volume of urban soft landscaping, with particular regard to residential areas and to improving microclimated.*
- *Control the proliferation and the design of street furniture and road markings to ensure regional and visual quality.* (Architects' Council of Europe 1995).

and further :

"Despite immense advances, the public realm too often lacks delight. More planting would improve microclimate, reduce dust, screen noise, refresh the eye and mind. Street furniture : signs, lighting, paving, litter bins, telephone kiosks, traffic controls, seating is installed without regard for location or cultural coherence. Ordinary towns

and cities, and many peripheries, are engineered environment's which lack all sense of visual quality".

Also :

"Improving the quality of life, on the other hand, not only concerns habitats and nature protection, but also the amenity of the landscape, better integration of new buildings and transport infrastructure into historical, urban centers, or the availability of parks and other green zones in urban areas. In such a way, the quality of life of millions of people can be substantially improved".

It is obvious that sustainable development has as many implications for the rural as for the urban environment.

About the Architectural Profession and Education it is noted :

"The profession must ensure that those entrusted with the design of architecture and the management of the building project have a generalist and humanist formation. They must be able to interpret social and cultural needs and to give these needs technical and constructional expression".

"Architecture Schools already teach management and construction alongside the more traditional skills".

"However, as always, but now more than ever, in its pursuit of a coherent built environment, the architectural profession must recall its core skills and duties :

- *Remind itself that to achieve coherence among different interests demand more than planning knowledge, building skill and high technical standards. It demands commitment to the beauty of things and respect for the individual and for the planet.*
- *Remind itself that the architect's most valuable contribution is likely to be the most characteristic : an ability to add value through invention; to sketch and to explore options for a future, which is not even known; and to combine this with the respect of the past and the site in working for and individuals so as to provide a democratic response to aspirations for use;*
- *Remind itself that if, through a unique set of competencies, the architect is the person best placed in the construction industry to act as an environmental conscience for buildings, promote the quality of the built environment".*

In the Chapter “Regional and local Government” it is proposed that, they have to *“Ensure the use of appropriated materials in urban landscaping and public spaces.*

Increase tree planting and soft landscape by a substantial factor in urban areas ...

Promote social interaction and cohesion through increased provision of public parks ...”

And for the Architects :

“Place environment and social sustainability at the core of our practice and professional responsibilities”.

In “The Sustainable City”, A European Tetralogy, Part III Transport and Public Spaces, (Ciuffini, 1993) there is a search towards the vital relationships between public spaces and society, as a cultural heritage that is nourished by history and daily life.

It is mentioned that private spaces and public spaces of the city are interrelated by functional, aesthetic and cultural links, and should provide “a mingling, sharing, an opportunity for coexistence, awareness, meeting, exchange a place for the chance and the unexpected to take place, for a wealth of sensations”... the pleasure of being surrounded by people in continual motion”.

It is a fact that public space allows for :

1. *ventilation and daytime illumination inside buildings and, vice versa, the viewing of them; this is especially important when the buildings have historical importance or aesthetic value;*
2. *most of the perspectives of a city, as seen by those who live there;*
3. *a link among the common areas of private and public buildings and among the accesses to underground or overhead transportation; the establishment of human contact; the possibility of looking into store windows; rest, recreation and ventilation – all in spaces that are by definition protected from motor traffic (parks, gardens, sidewalks, pedestrian streets and squares).*
4. *bicycle circulation and parking;*
5. *public – transit circulation and parking;*
6. *private – vehicle circulation and parking;*
7. *the placement underground of major circuit networks (electric, telephone, telematic cables, sewage and water mains) etc”.*

There is a reference to public spaces of our times as underground stations, walkways, staircases etc., as well as “passages”, first conceived in Paris of 17th century to shelter pedestrians from dangerous traffic of horses.

There is also a reference to the relationship between public spaces and mobility and to negative effects of vehicular traffic :

1. *congestion, and saturated circulation and parking areas, whenever the “geometric” capacity of the network is exceeded;*
2. *noise (damage to health and / or costs to attenuate its effects);*
3. *visual impact (or visual intrusion);*
4. *improper use of valuable spaces;*
5. *accidents, particularly at the expense of “defenseless” users of public space (pedestrians, bicyclists); abandonment of those methods of travel because of the risks connected with them;*
6. *atmospheric pollution (damage to human health and to buildings, especially historically important ones);*
7. *vibration (damage to buildings);*
8. *unequal apportionment of the use of space and time in cities among different categories of citizens, especially the preference for individual cars over public – transit vehicles, although the latter can serve far great numbers of passengers;*
9. *a drop in efficiency and effectiveness of public – transport vehicles) impact on the public transportation system);*
10. *indiscriminate expansion of the city (urban sprawl), drop in technical efficiency and effectiveness of public – transport vehicles in low – density areas, with consequent drop in appeal to the public and in revenues to the transportation system; a tendency toward single – mode transportation and consequent dependence on it; lack of an adequate choice of transport options.*

Then, there is an investigation of the problems caused by the dependence of cities on cars as energy consumption, pollution, accidents, congestion etc and a proposal for creation the car – free city.

“The means for pedestrianism must be total and the sensation should be that of a total recuperation and total freedom of one’s own relationships with space.

Only thus will public space assume a character of a “second nature”, entirely constructed by man, and exclusively dedicated to him”.

The conclusion from the above mentioned points, is that city environment, Landscape Architecture, urban Landscape and its elements, are concerned by European Union's boards as very important for the future of the cities.

Especially elements such as :

- green areas, parks
- open spaces
- play areas
- appropriate urban landscape materials
- soft landscaping
- quality of street furniture
- planting
- respect of the past and the site

must be subjects of continuous concern for improvement and must be parts of coherent wholes in order to improve quality of life in our cities.

As world urbanization is being a general tendency, caused by complicate economic and social factors, the problems of the urban space, the rehabilitation of empty or abandoned spaces, the restoration of the consistency and coherence of urban space and of physical landscape and their relationship, are the items that will provide quality to new conditions, and will be an area of practice of both Architecture and Landscape Architecture which are in the focus of this creative activity, but also other disciplines, as the work of environments and environmental artists are equally valid.

6.1.2. The Landscape Institute's education policy

The Landscape Institute's Educational Policy on the Education of Landscape Architects has been expressed in the "Educational Forum" in Leeds (1993) and in "Education Policy" (annual edition):

"The aim should be to get the highest possible caliber of student. This might not be reflected purely in academic A levels" EF item 30.

"The profession does not want technicians coming out with blinkered restricted though – they should be able to think, write and communicate well, and respond to change" EF item 30.

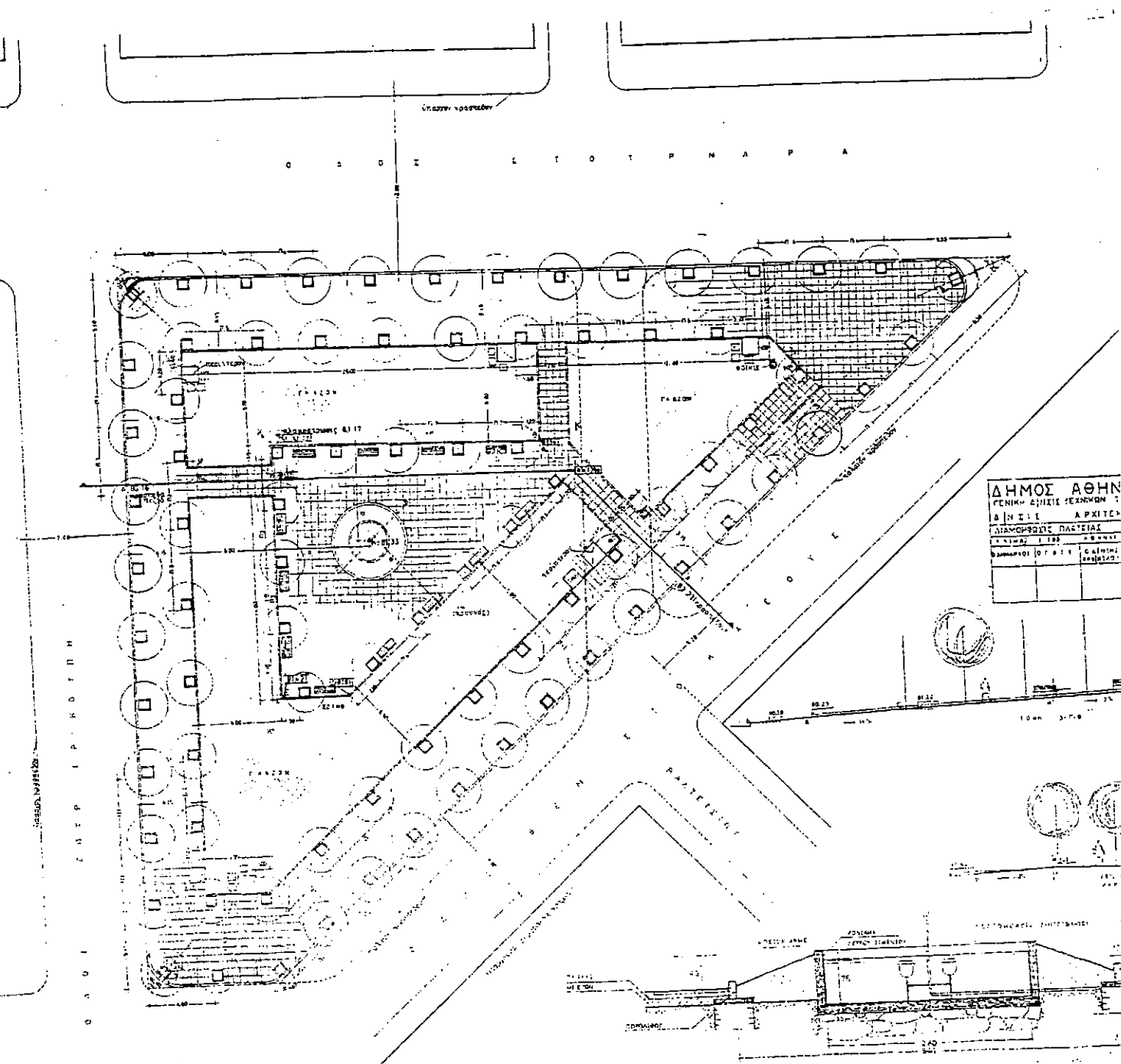
“Broadening of courses allows choice” EF item 32.

“(Landscape Architects) must have the ability to create and sustain landscapes that satisfy human and natural needs... whilst giving proper consideration of the need to present natural environments and cultural heritage” EP p1.

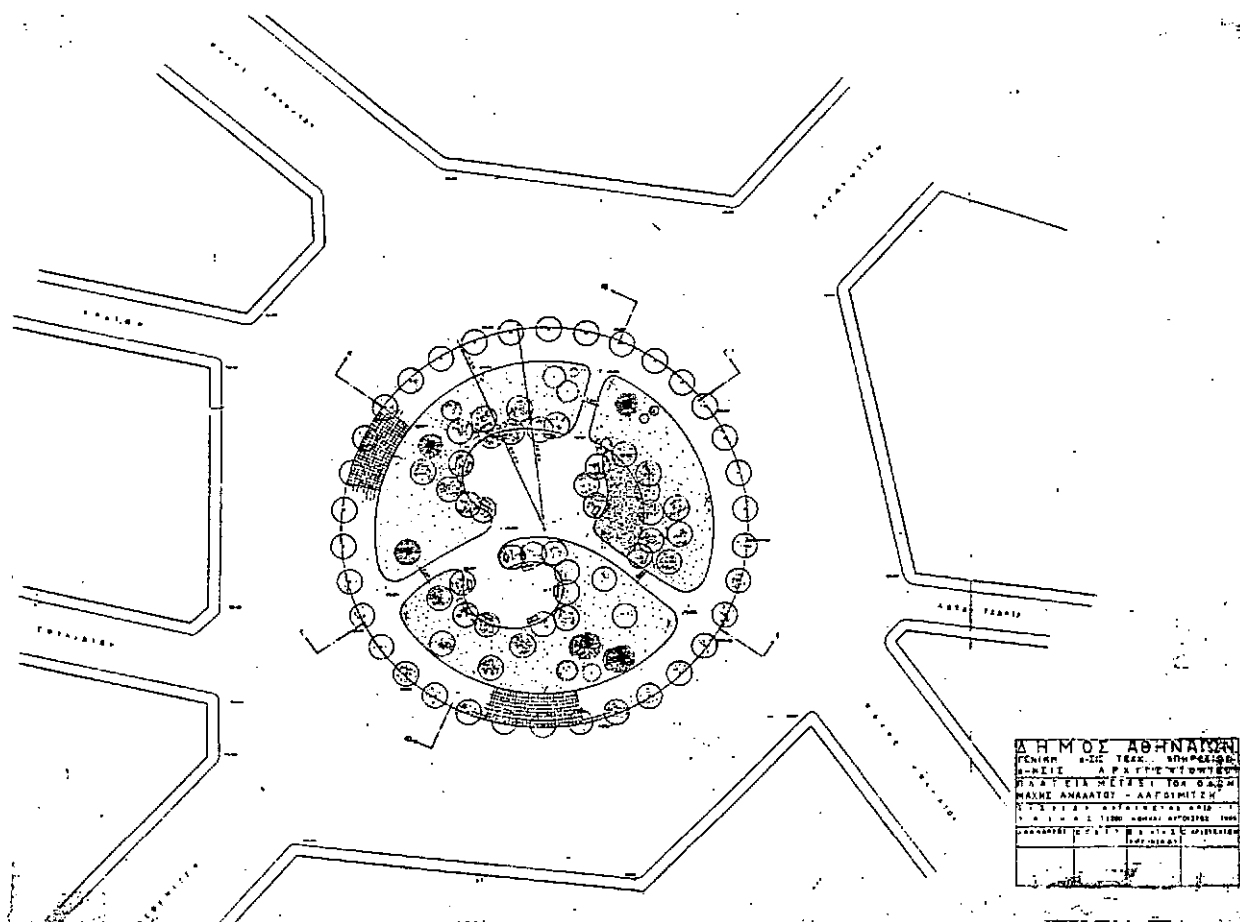
“Landscape design can be didactic and experimental. Land, which is landscape as seen and valued by man, is a finite resource, and as the developed world and developing countries become more and more urbanized, it is increasingly necessary to think about ways of recycling land and giving it a value”.

6.2. APPENDIX 2

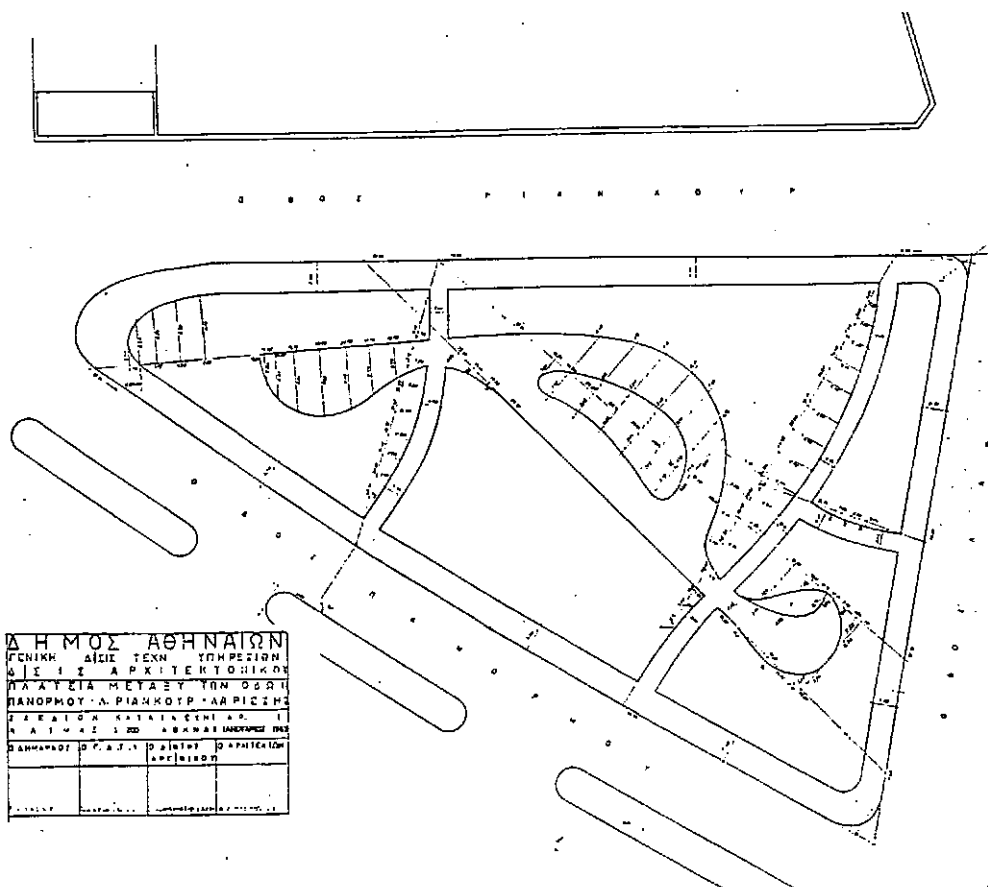
Examples of Open Public Spaces Formations by the Municipality of Athens



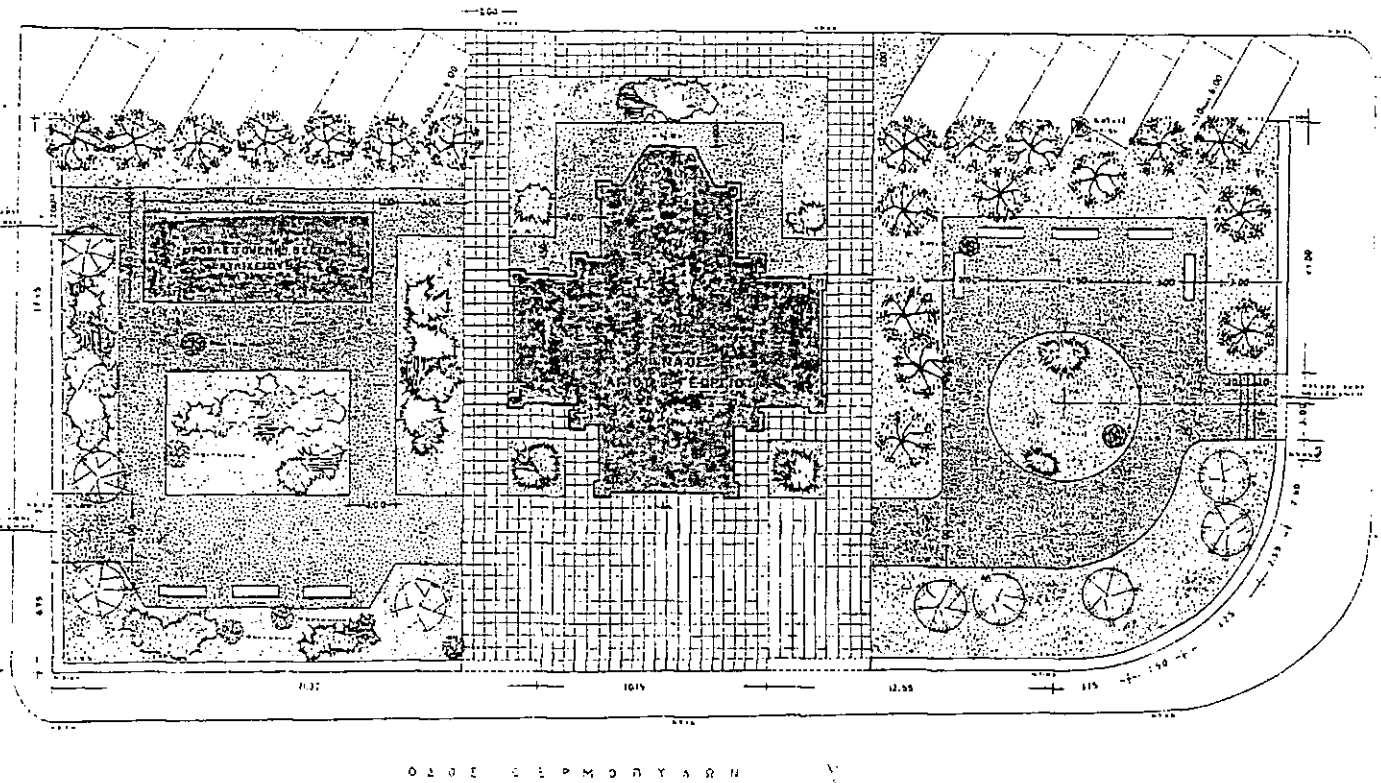
513. Exarchia Square (1964) (source: Municipality of Athens)



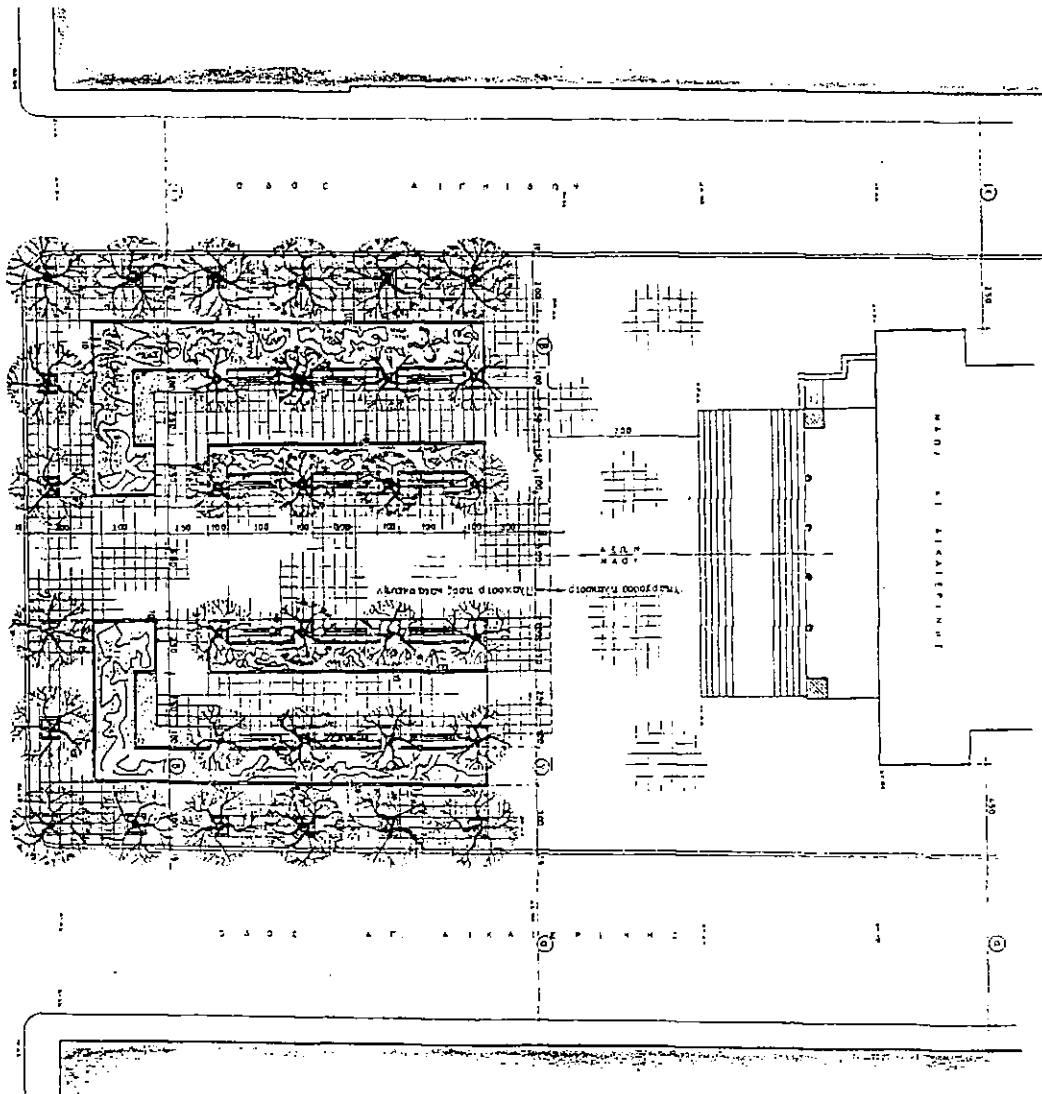
514. Square in Lagoumitzi (1965) (source: Municipality of Athens)



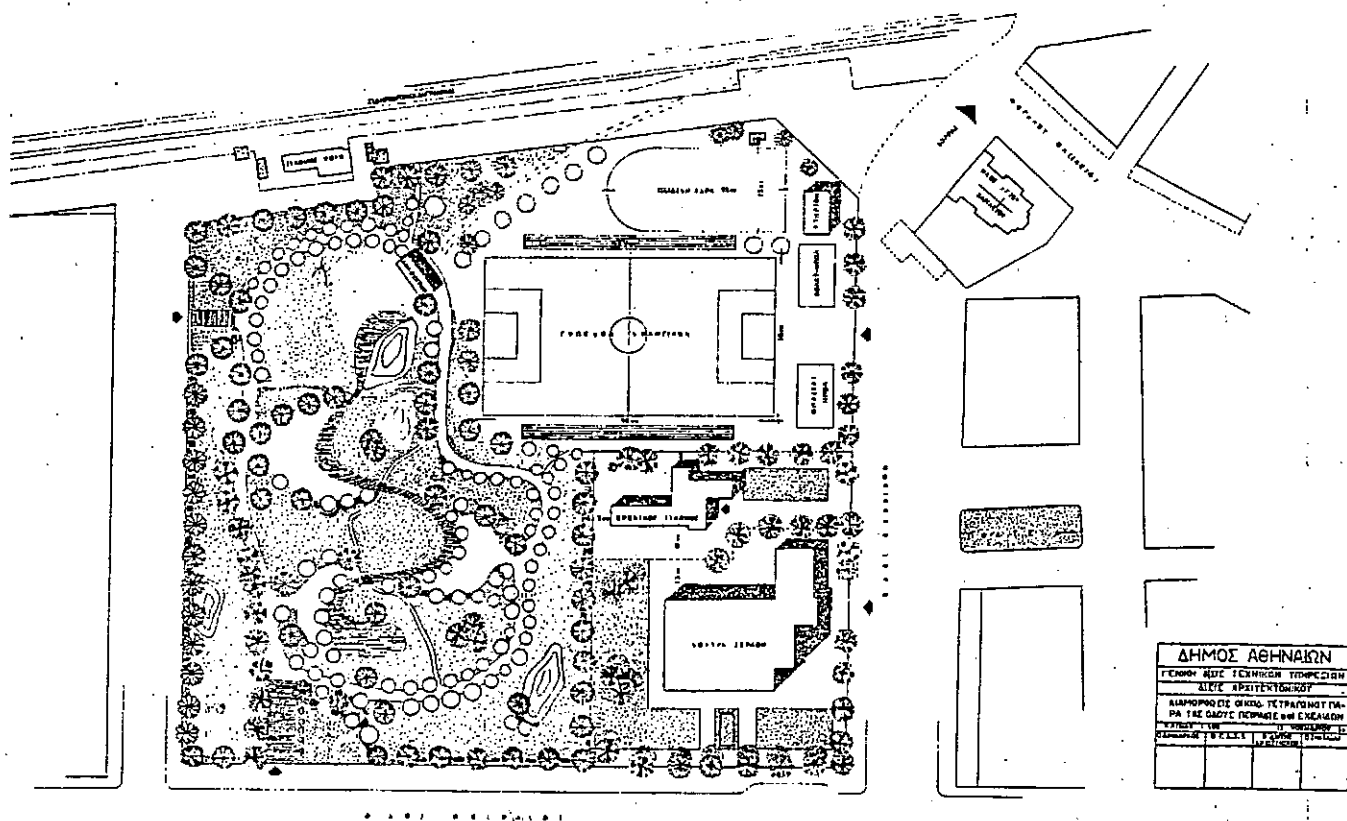
515. Square in Panormou Street (1965) (source: Municipality of Athens)



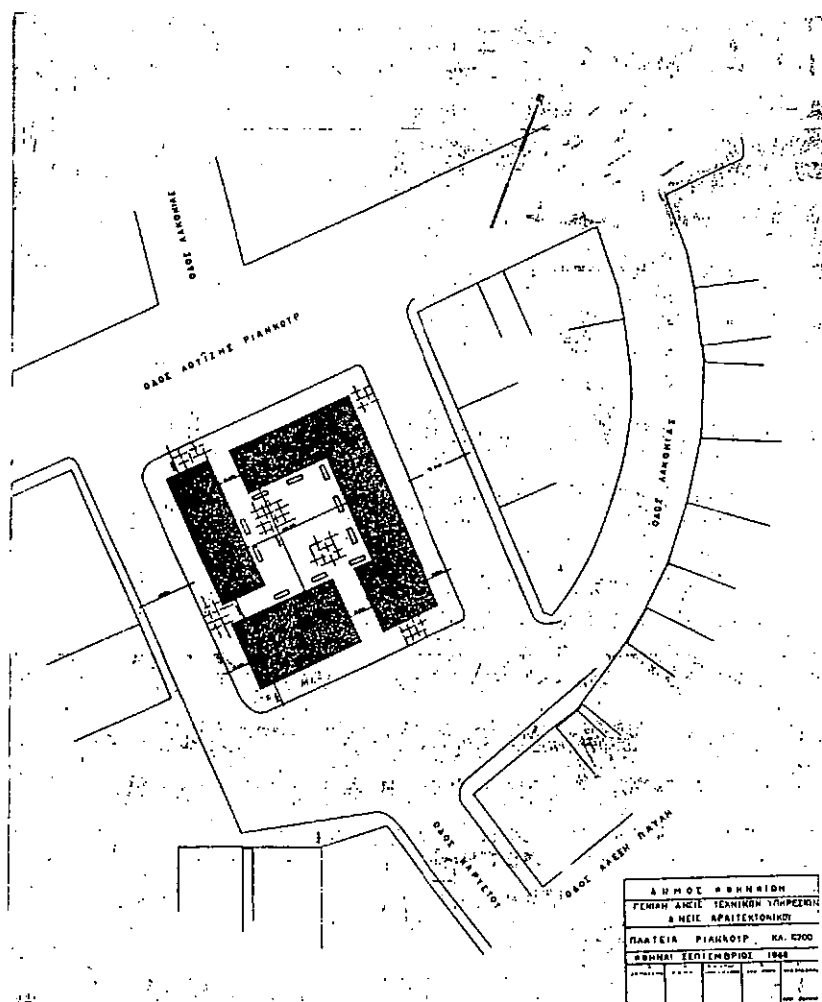
516. Ag. Georgios' Square (1966) (source: Municipality of Athens)



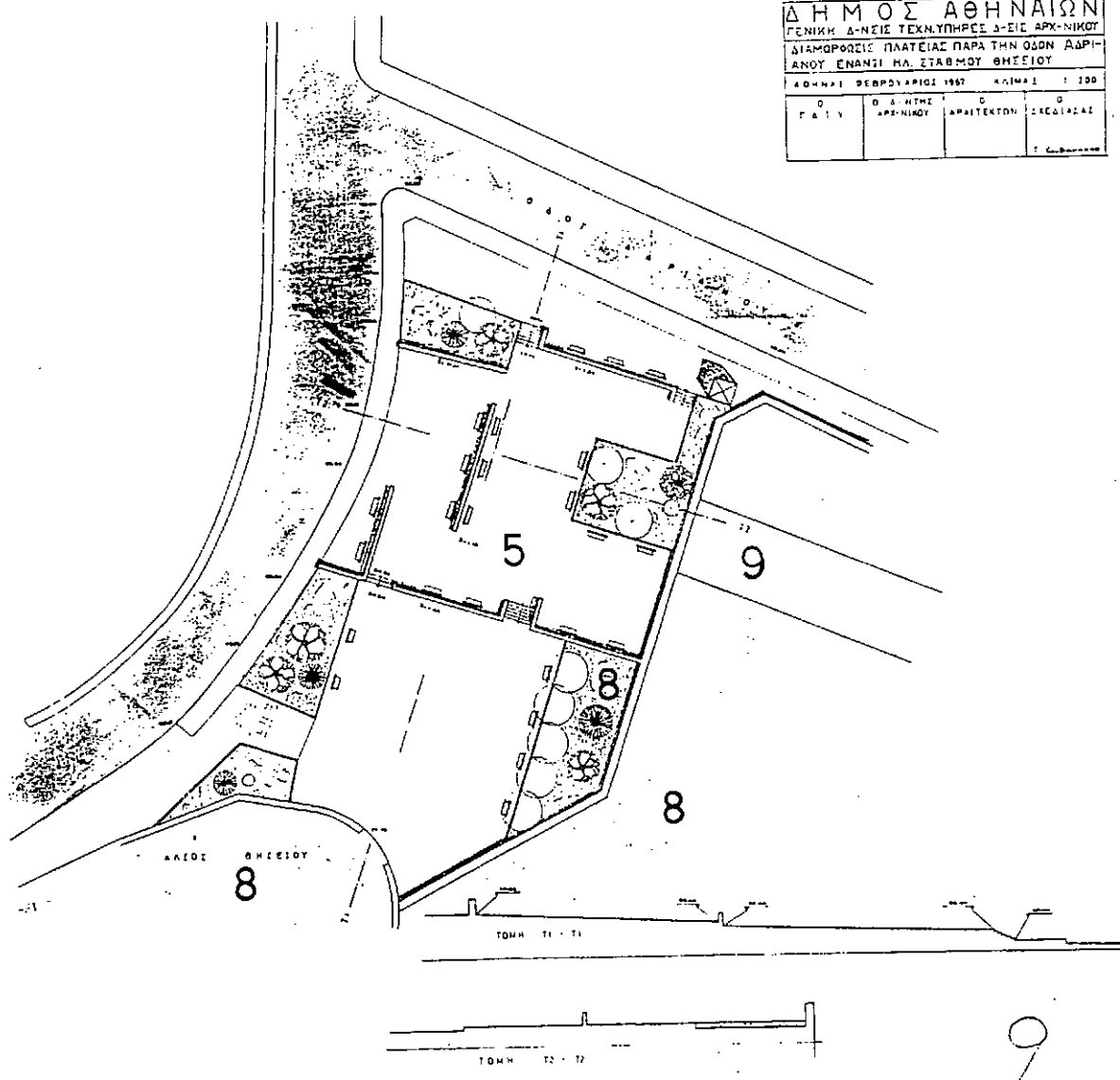
517. Square in front of Ag. Ekaterini, Petralono (1965) (source: Municipality of Athens)



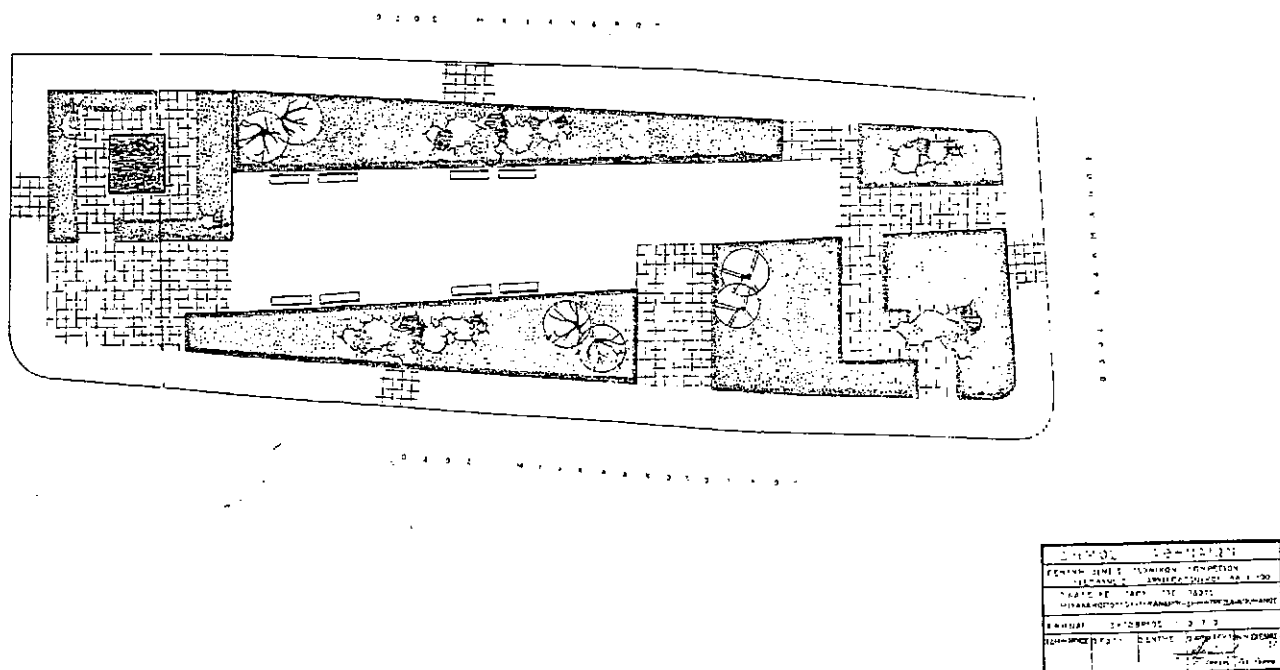
518.Square in Pireos street, with sports field (1965) (source: Municipality of Athens)



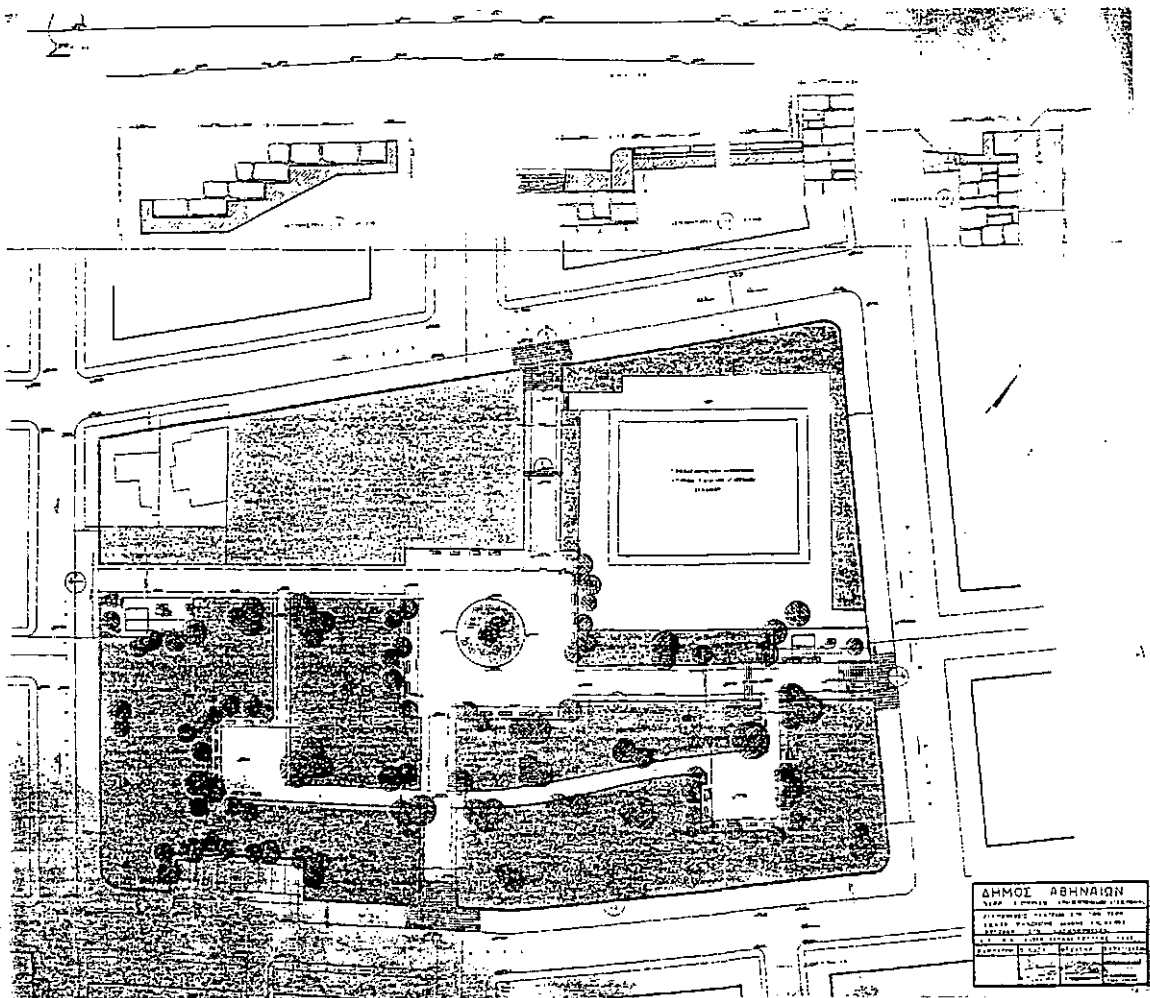
519.Riankour Square (1968) (source: Municipality of Athens)



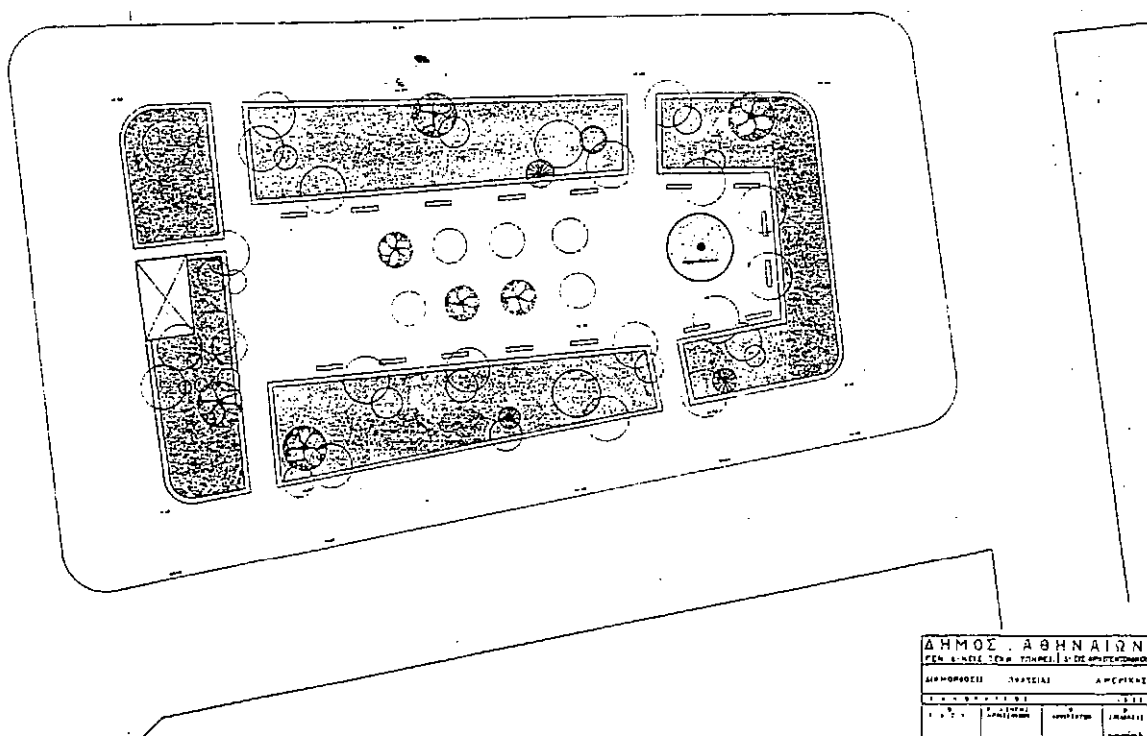
520. Square in Adrianou street, next to Thission train station (1967) (source: Municipality of Athens)



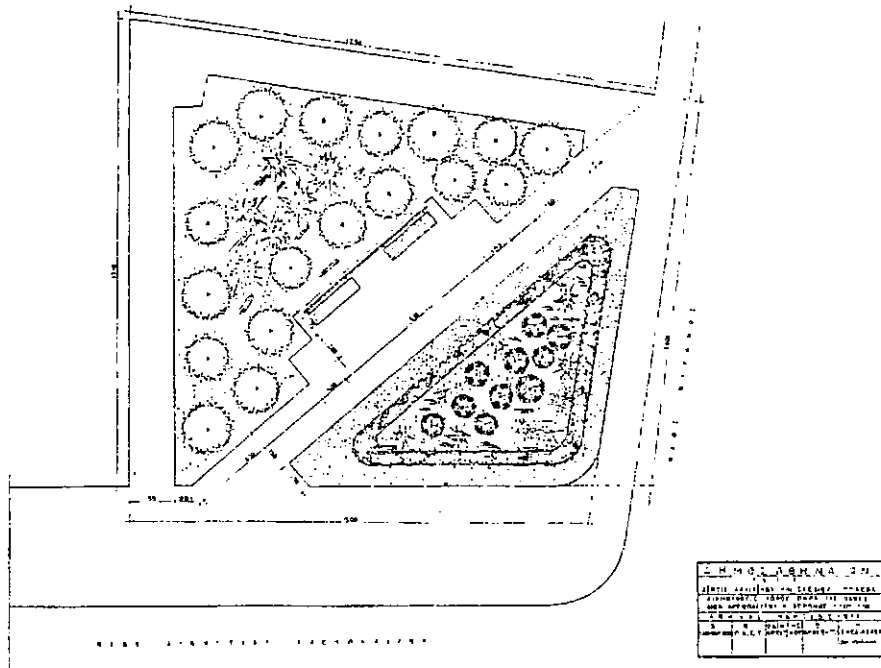
521. Square in Michalacopoulou street (1970) (source: Municipality of Athens)



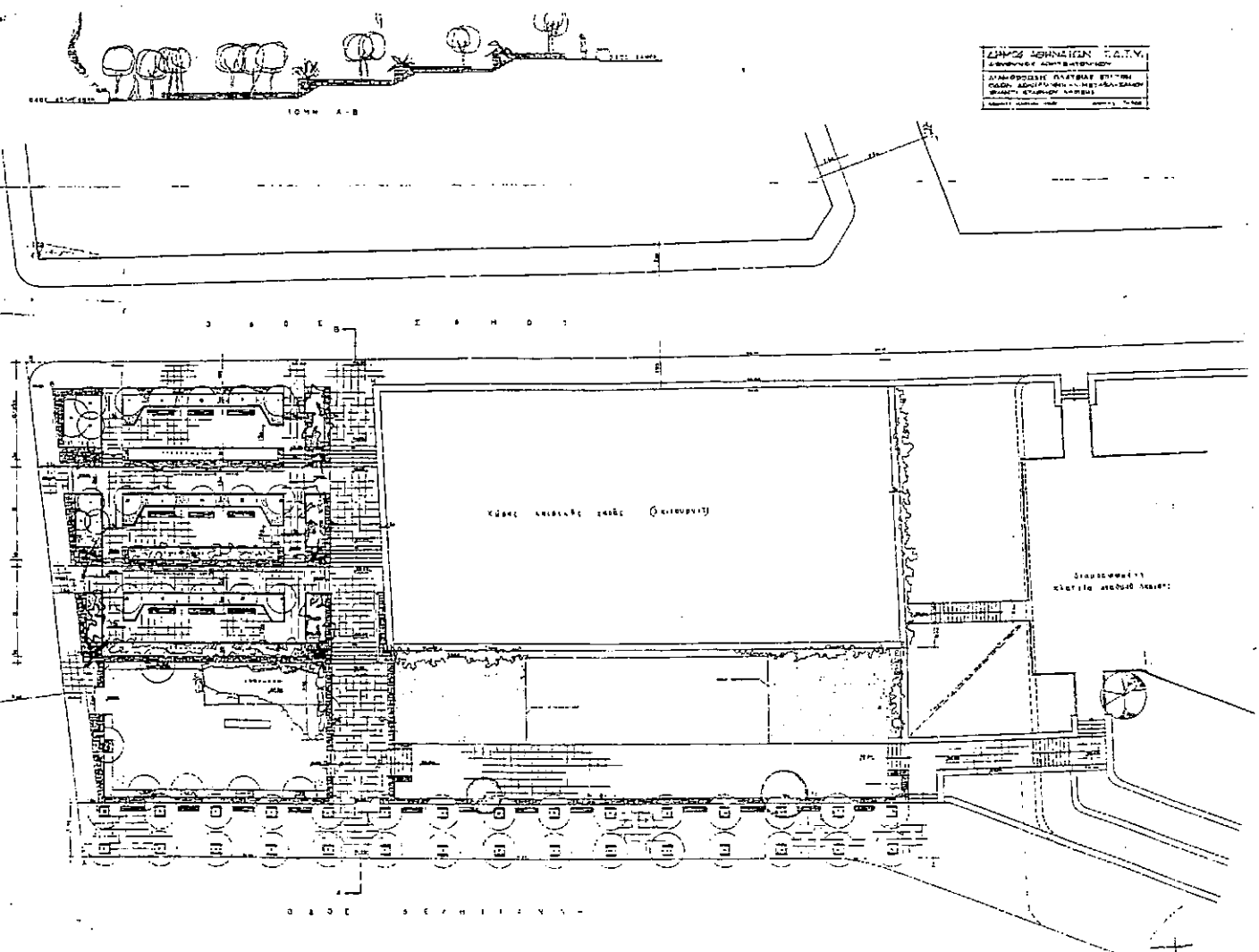
524. Square in Hellinorossion (1969) (source: Municipality of Athens)



525. Amerikis Square (1967) (source: Municipality of Athens)

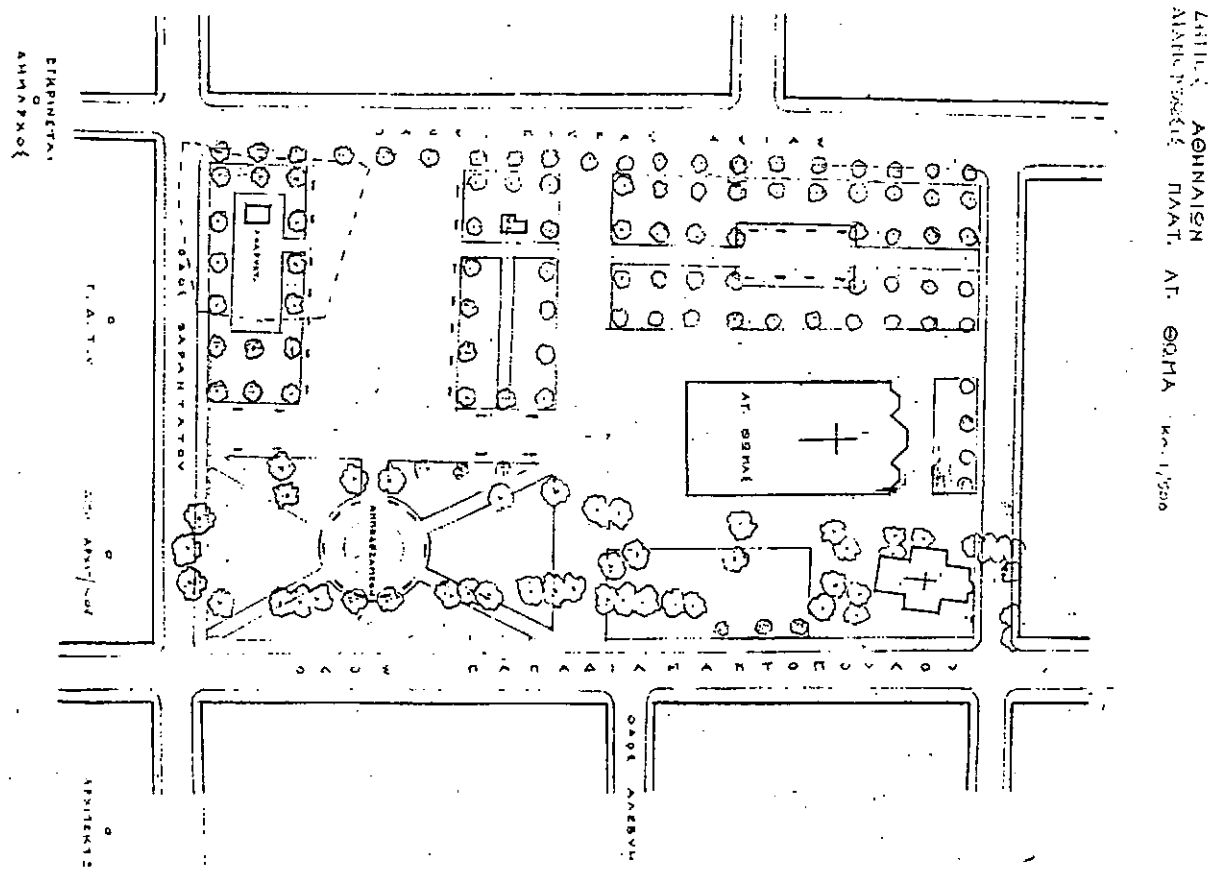


528.Square in Dionyssiou Aeropagitou, Makriyanni (1971) (source: Municipality of Athens)

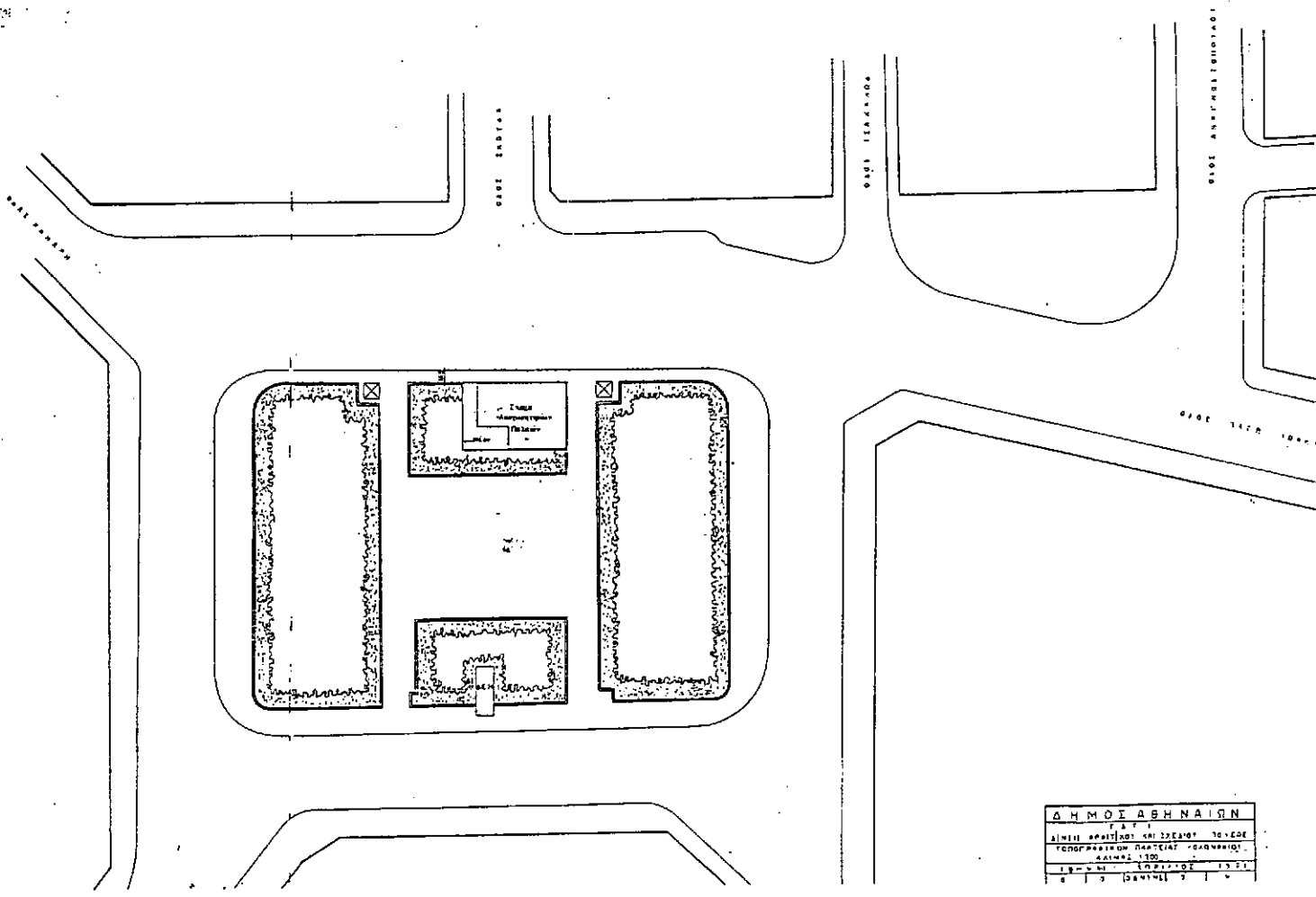


9.Square opposite central Railway Station (1967) (source: Municipality of Athens)

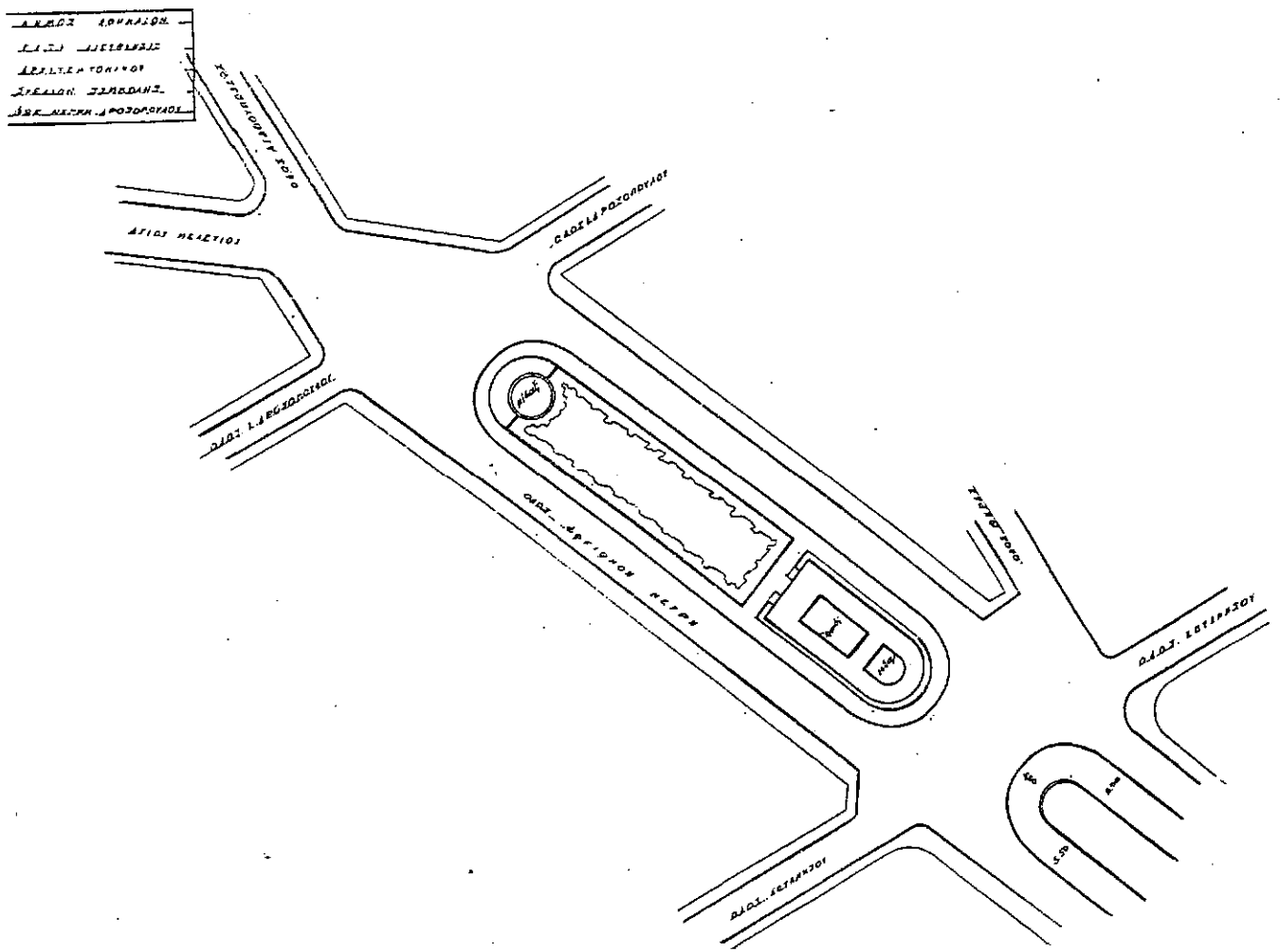
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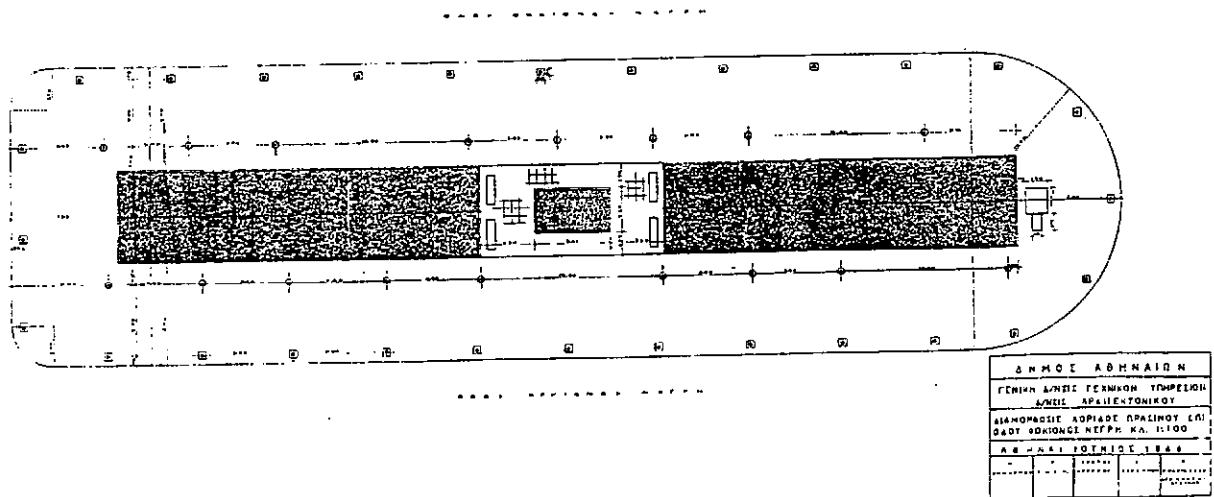
530. Ag. Thomas square (1960) (source: Municipality of Athens)



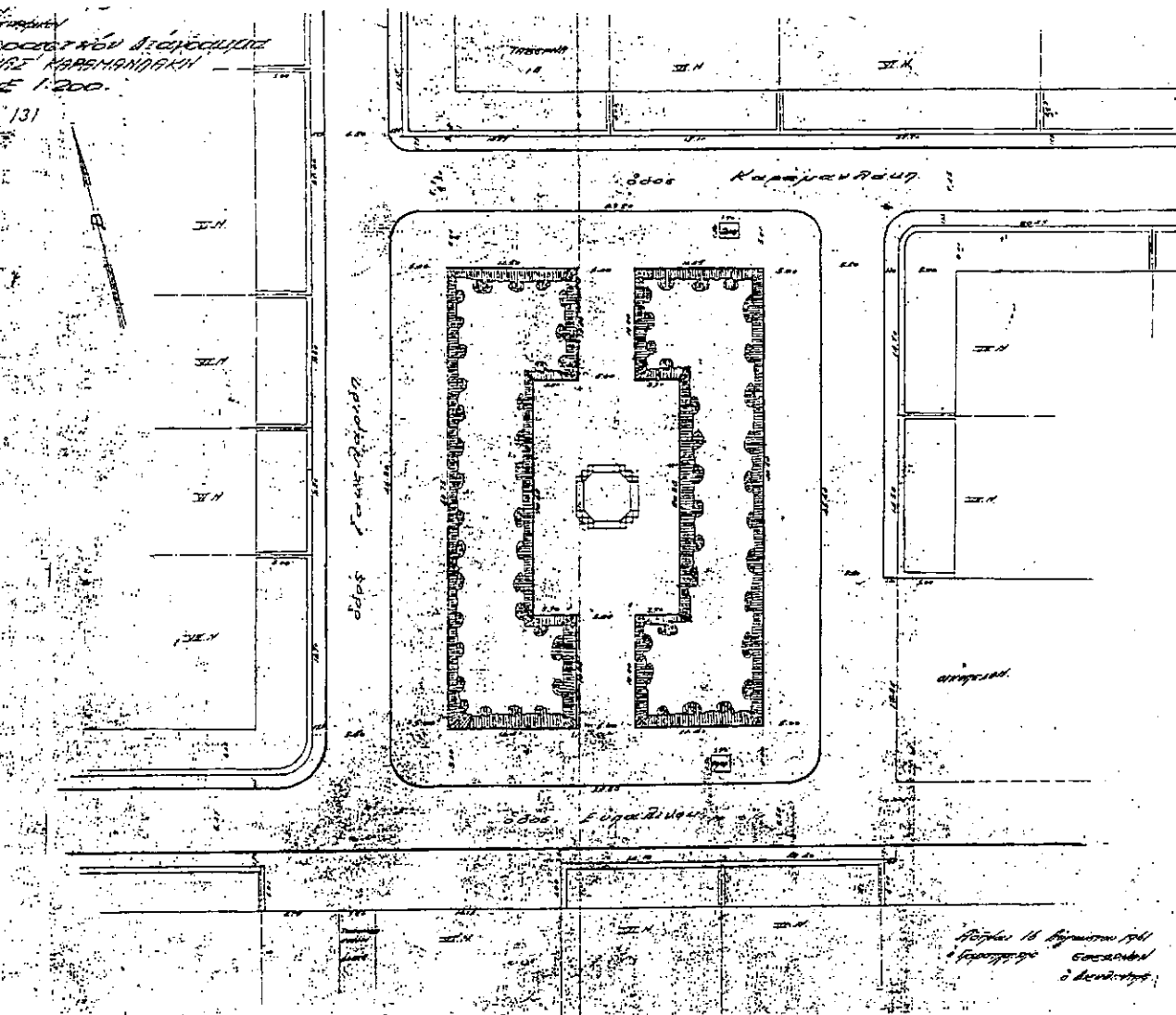
531. Kolonaki Square (1971) (source: Municipality of Athens)



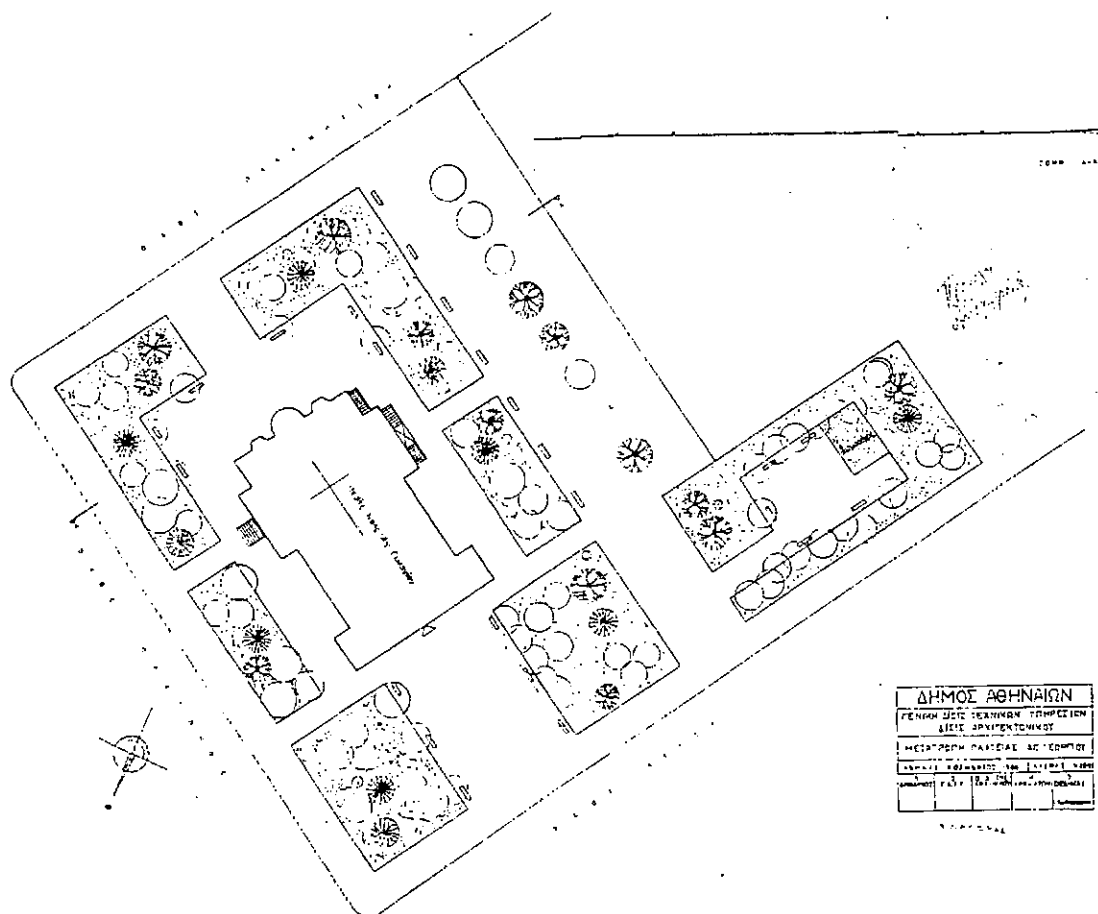
534. Part of Fokionos Negri (1968) (source: Municipality of Athens)



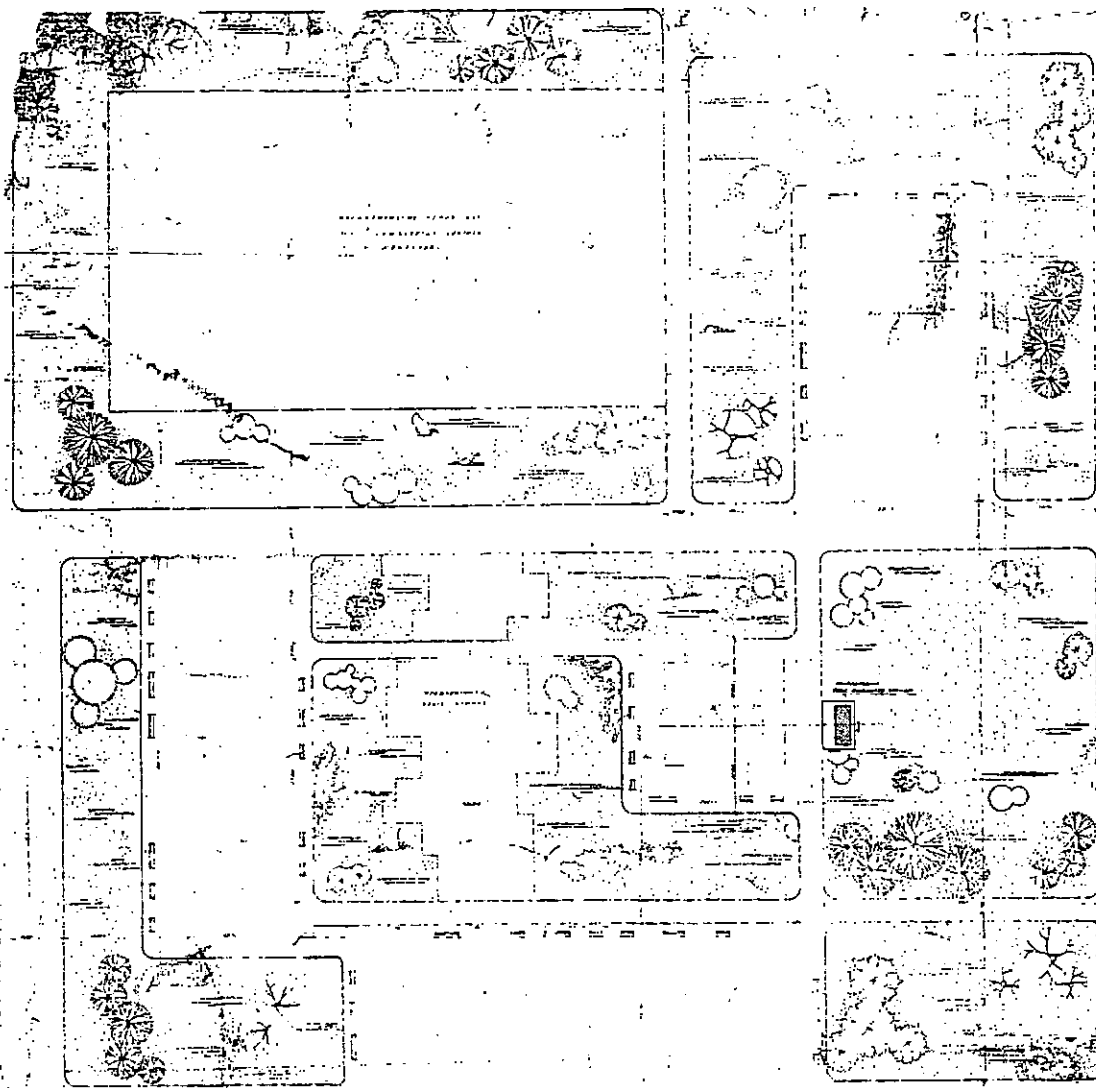
535. Part of Fokioos Negri (1968) (source: Municipality of Athens)



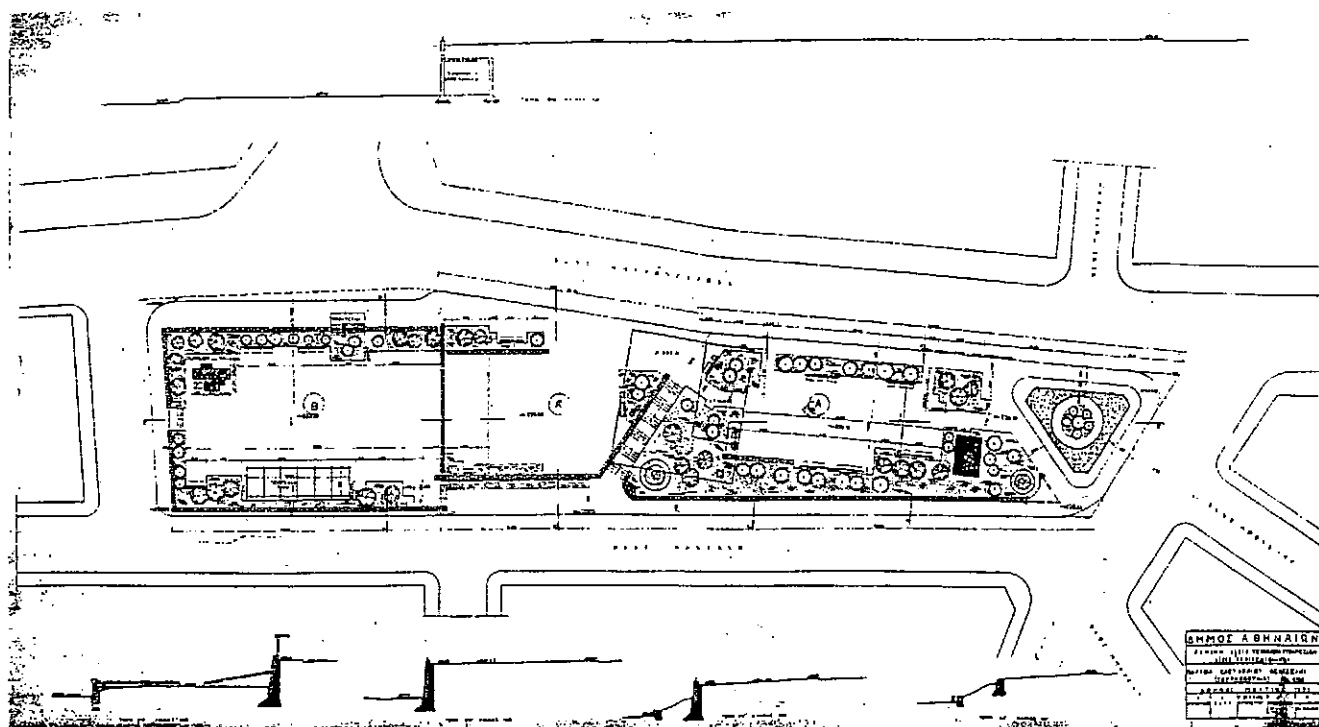
536.Square in Patissia (1970) (source: Municipality of Athens)



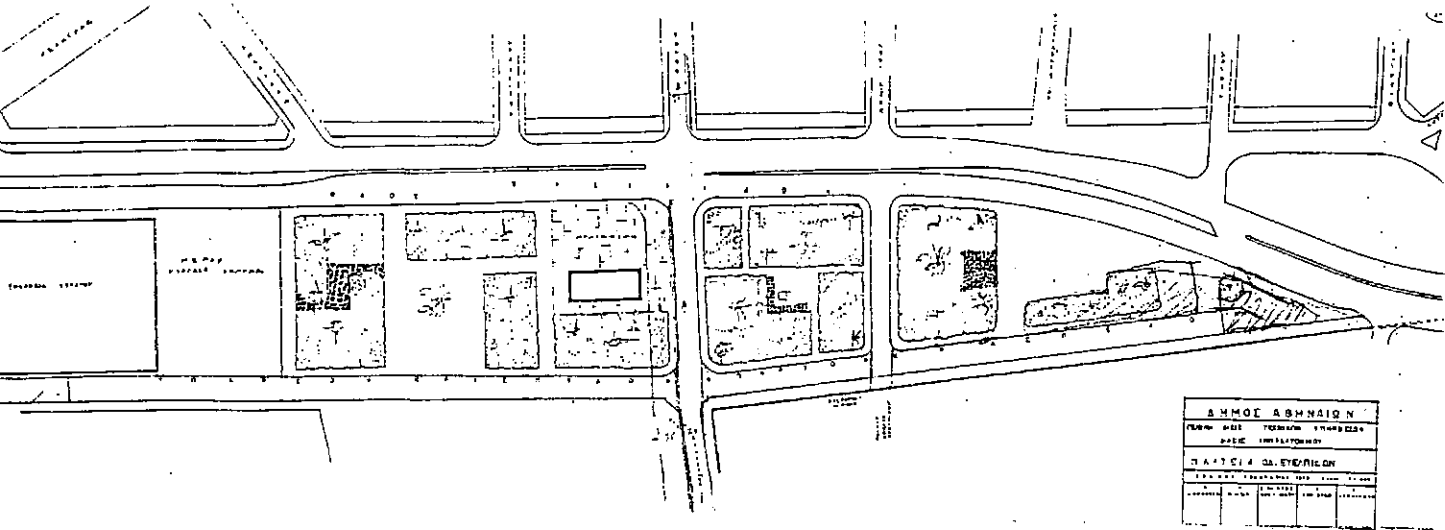
537.Ag. Georgios' Square (1966) (source: Municipality of Athens)

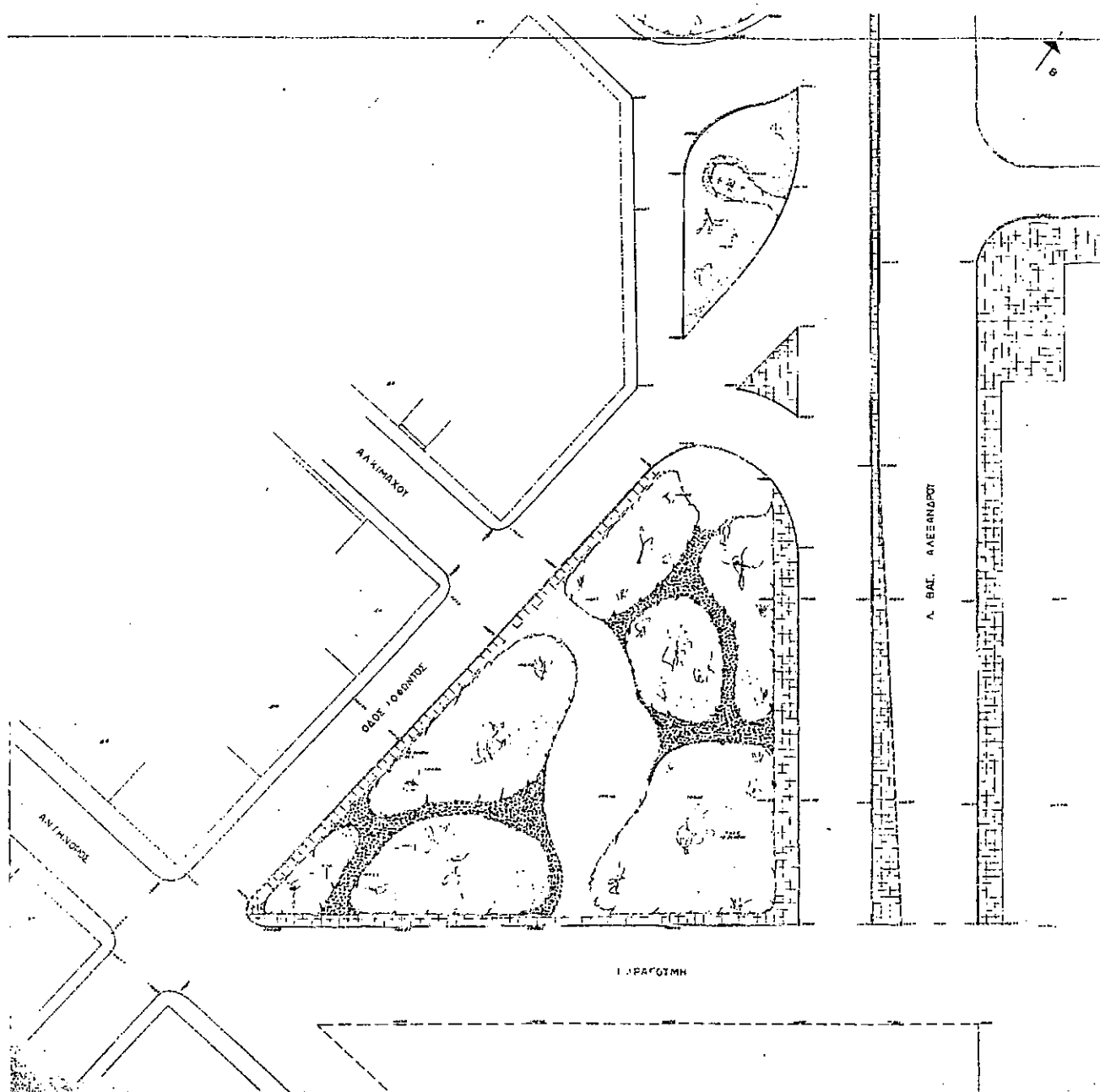


538. Labrini's Square, Patissia (1970) (source: Municipality of Athens)

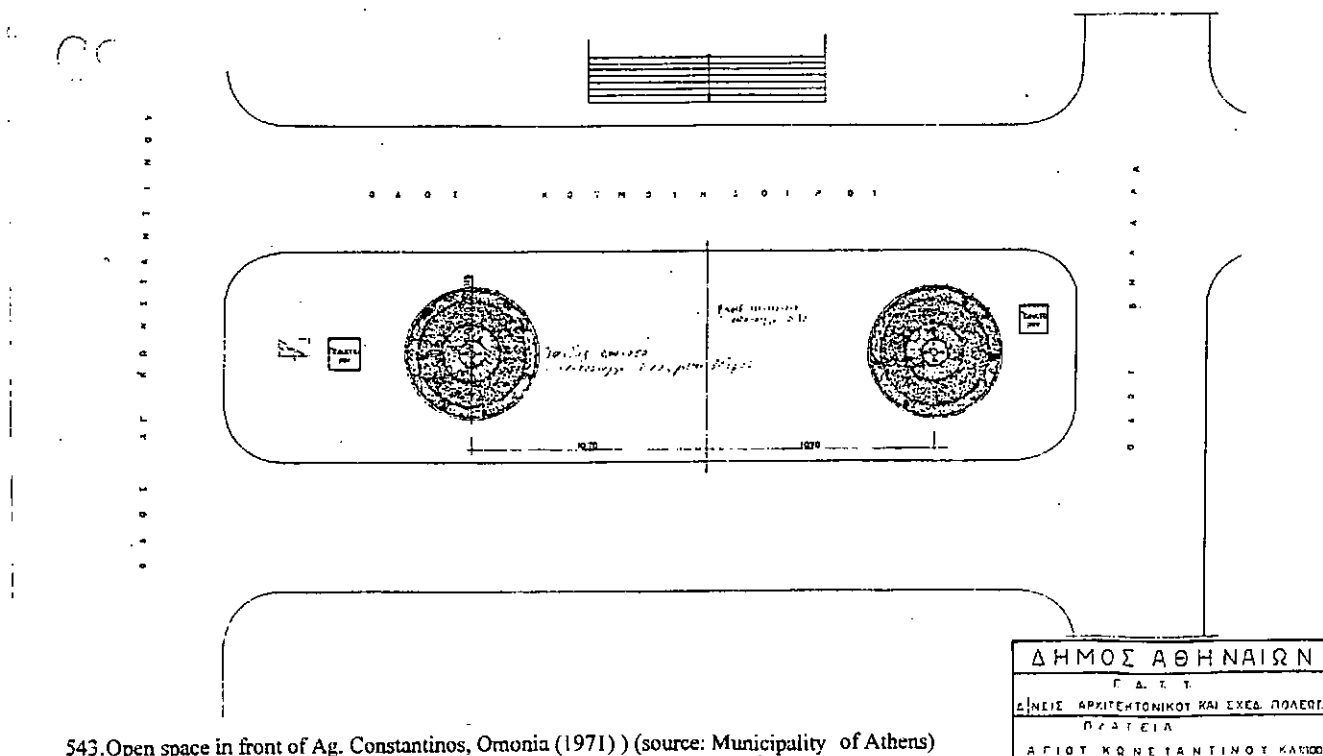


539. El. Venizelou Square, Tourkovounia (1971) (source: Municipality of Athens)

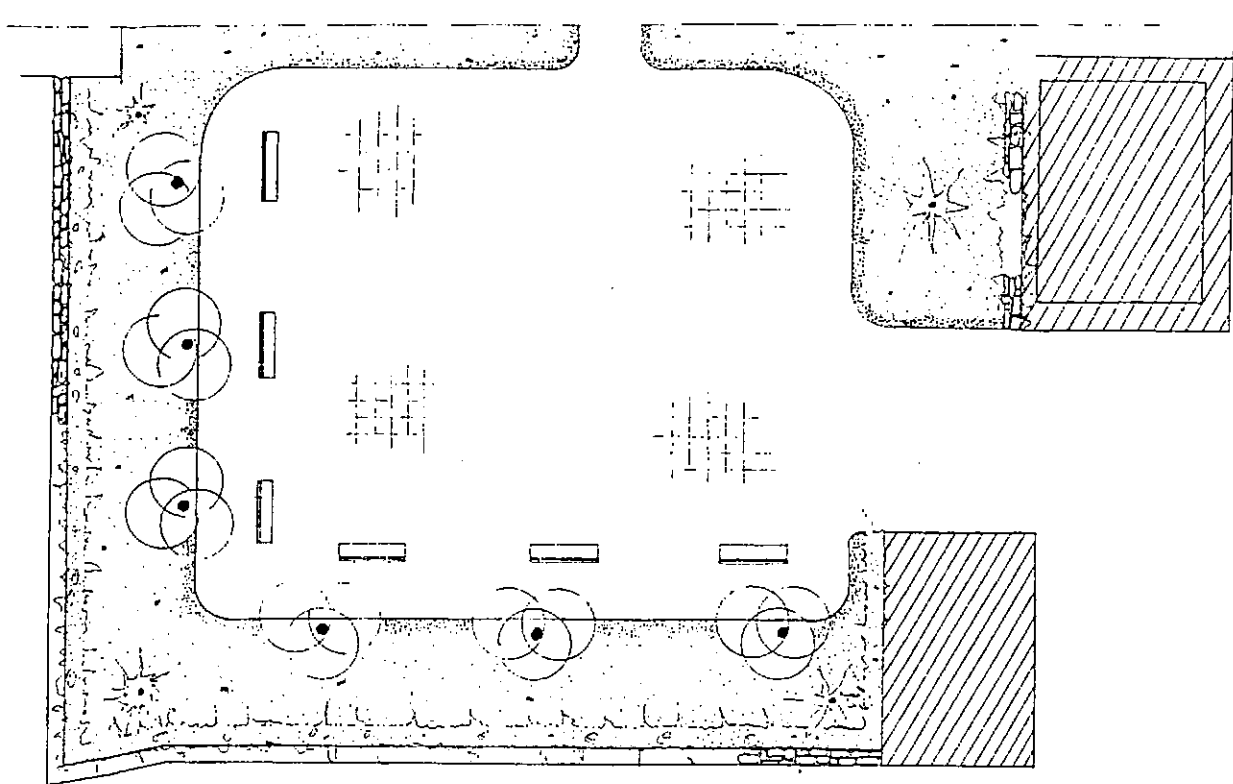




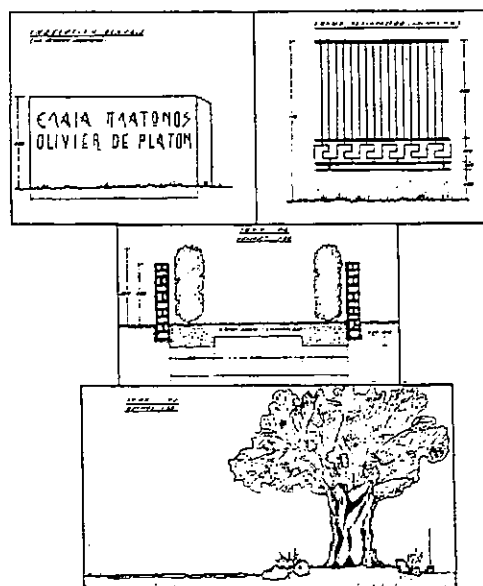
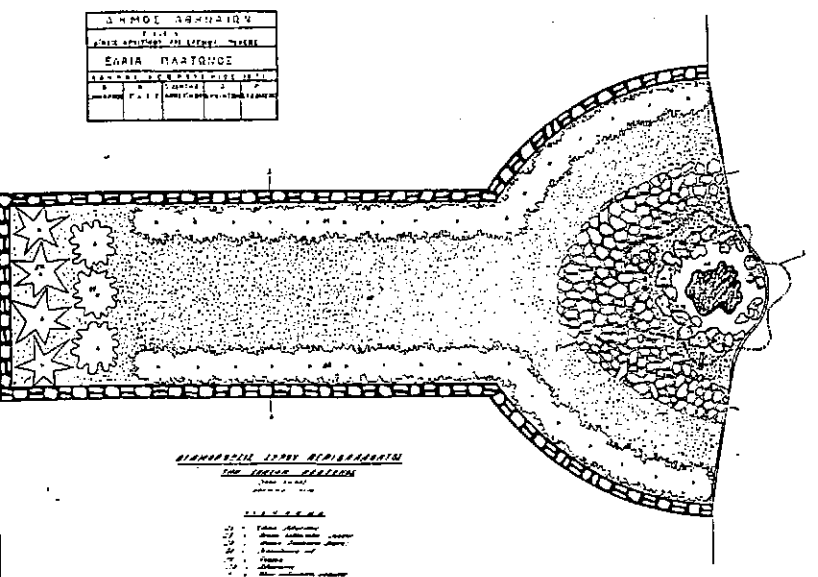
542. Square in Ilissia district (1970)) (source: Municipality of Athens)

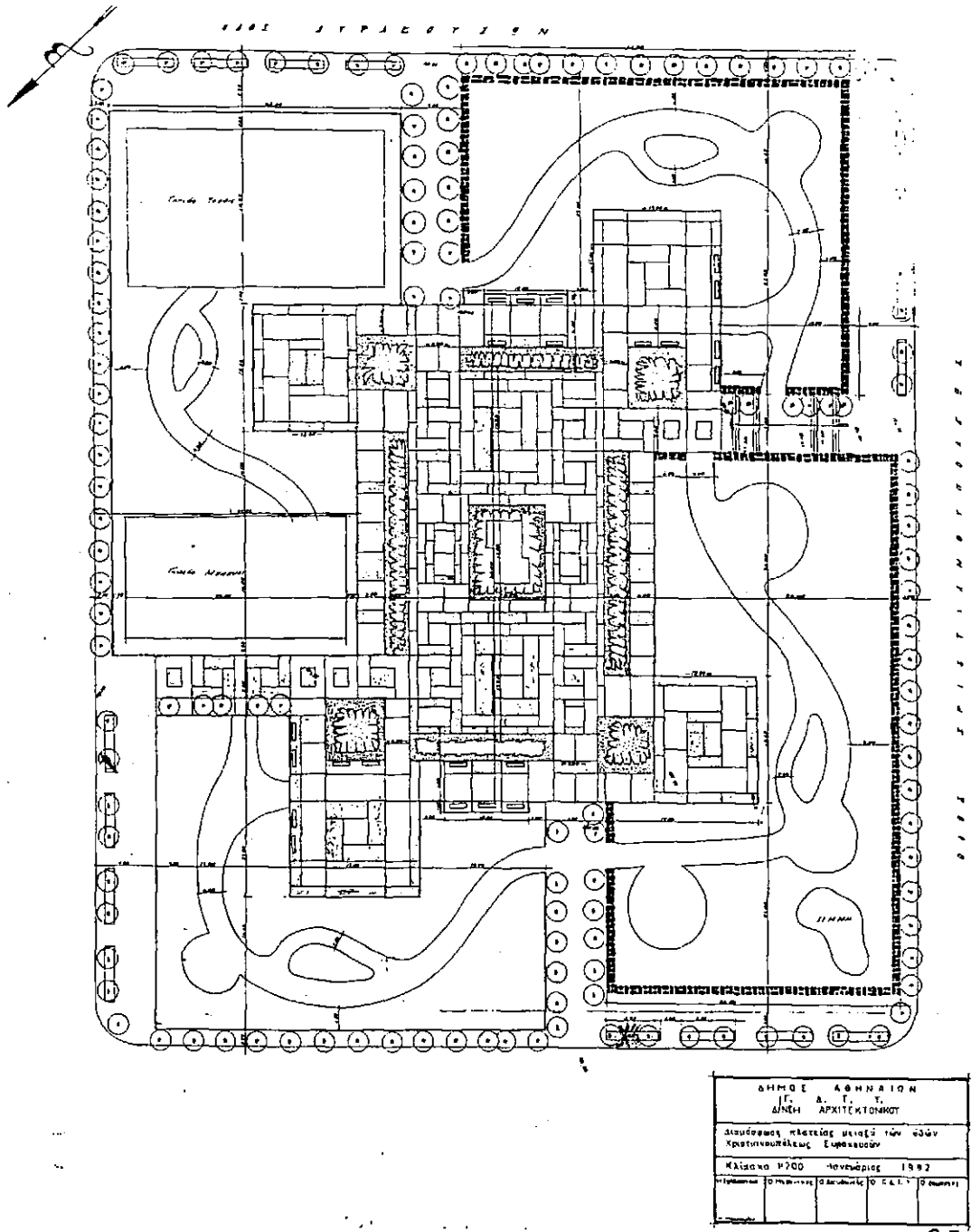


543. Open space in front of Ag. Constantinos, Omonia (1971)) (source: Municipality of Athens)



544. Open space in Platos' Academy (1975)) (source: Municipality of Athens)

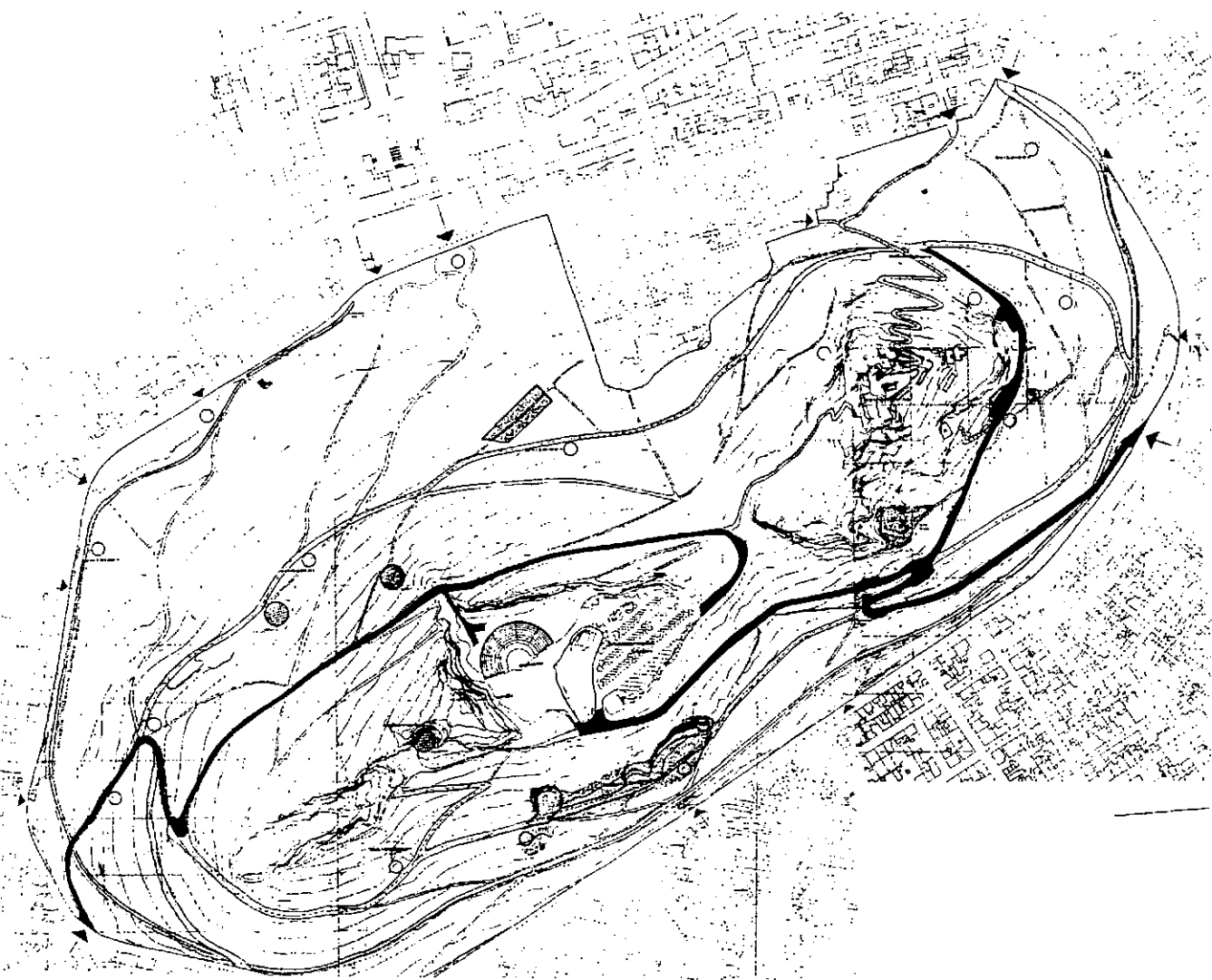




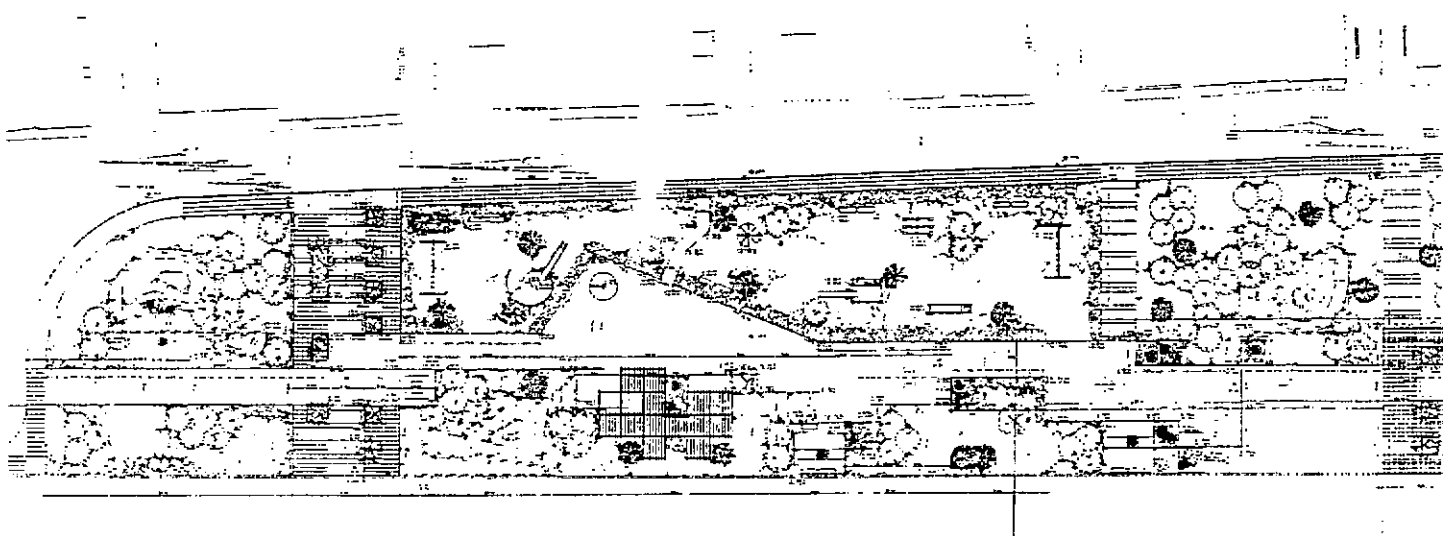
548.Square in Syracousson street (1982) (source: Municipality of Athens)

6.3. APPENDIX 3

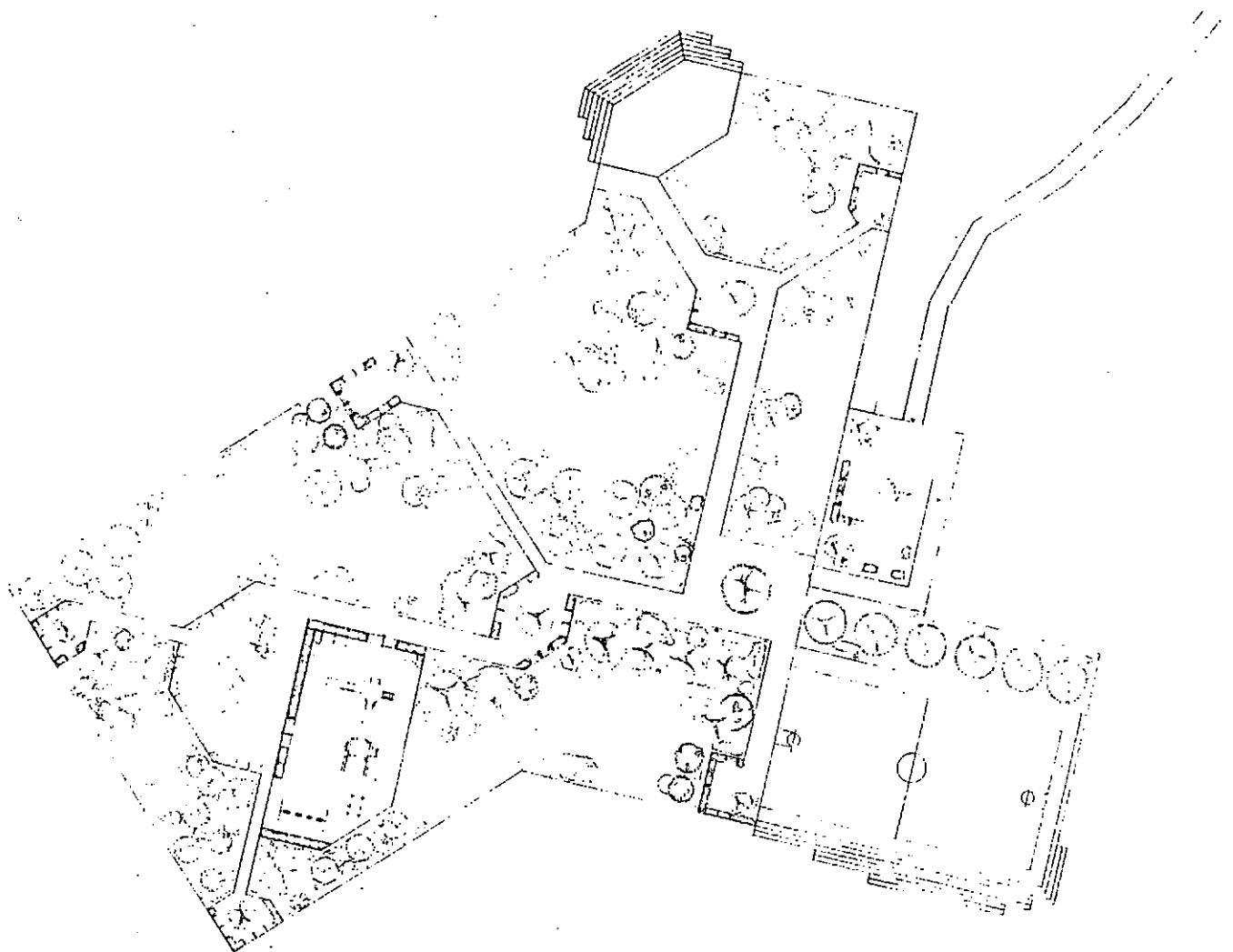
Examples of Open Public Spaces Formations by the Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works.



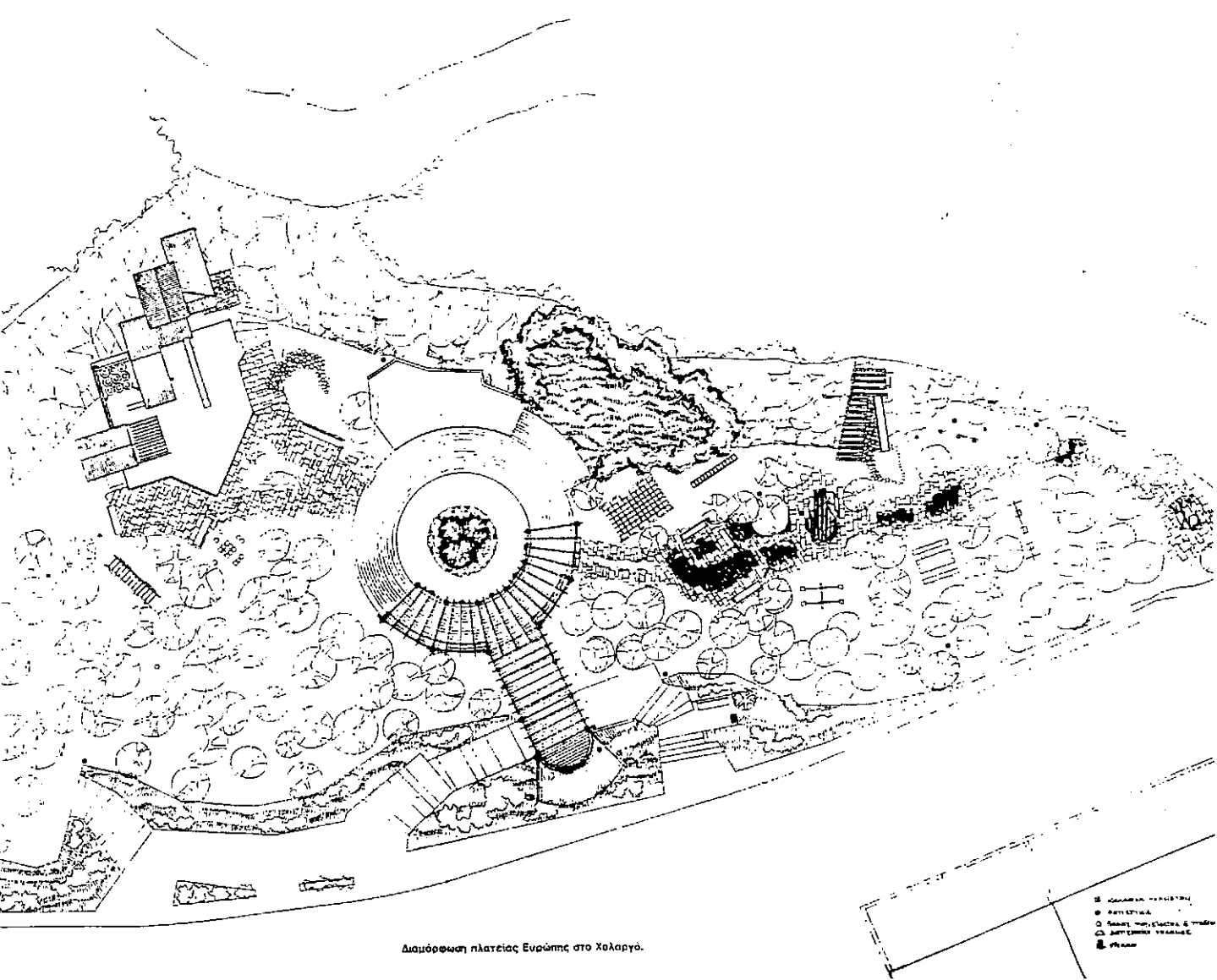
Landscaping on Lycabettus Hill (1978) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



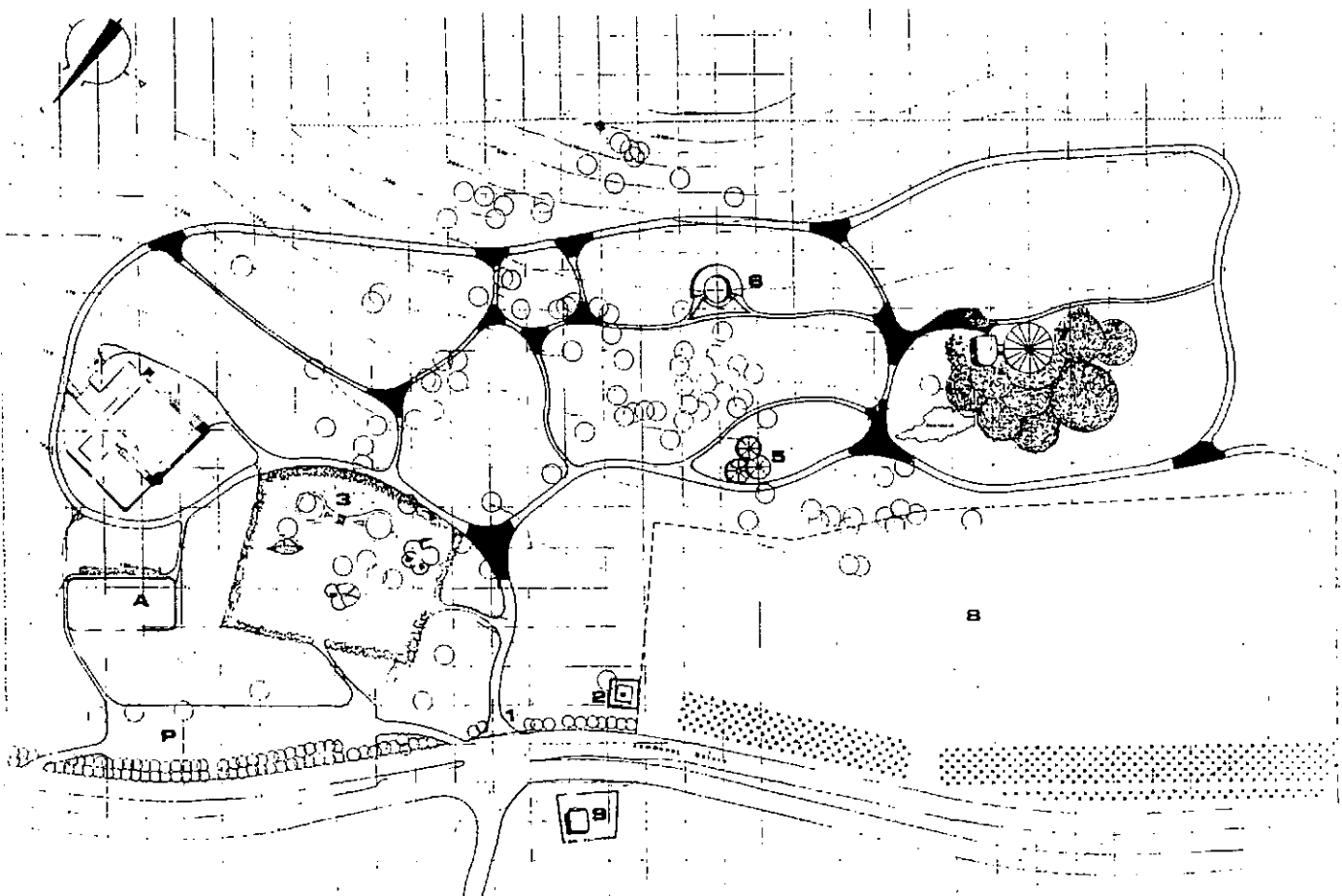
550. Open Public Space in Egaleo district (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



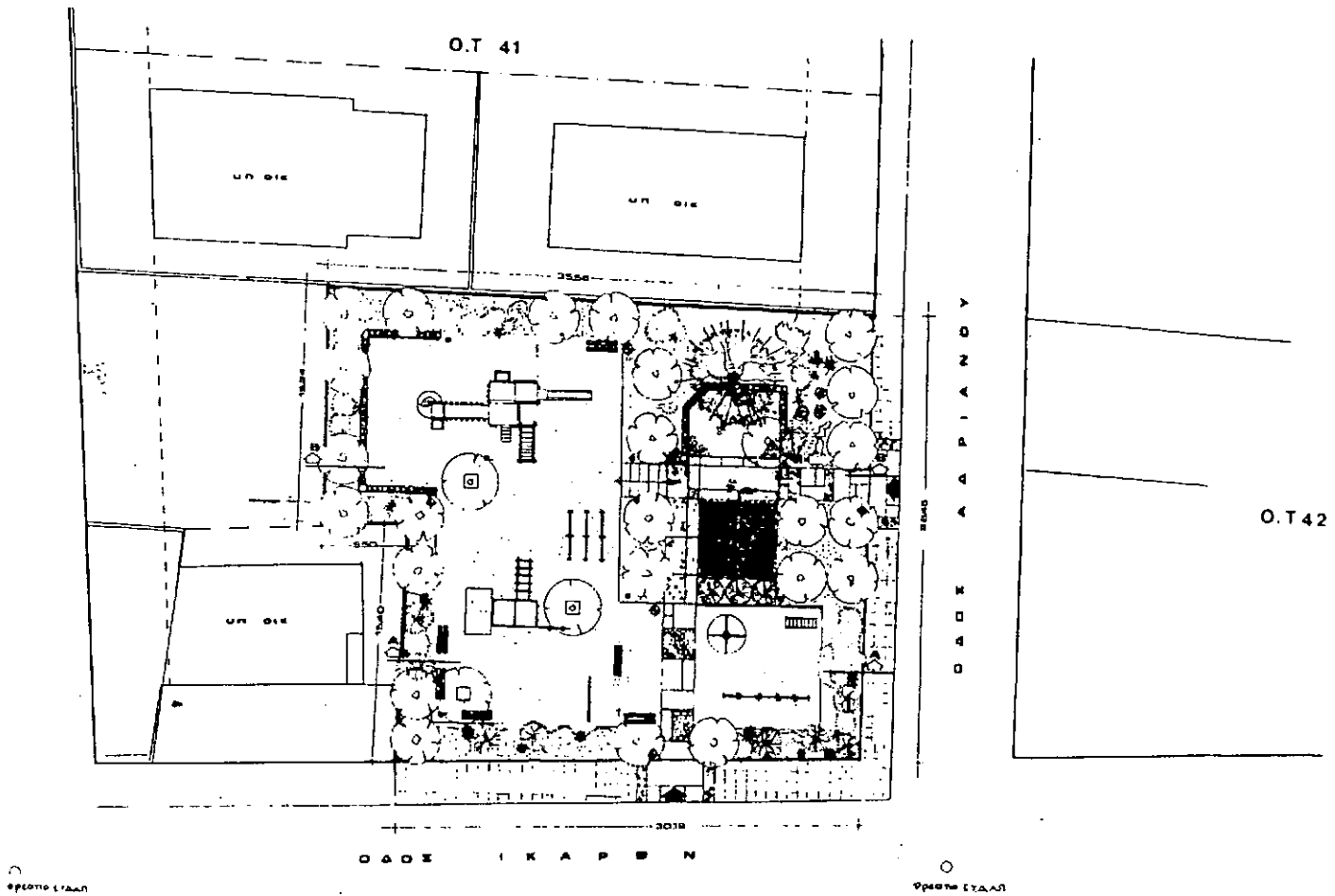
551. Formation of the upper part of Water Reservoir, in Byron district (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



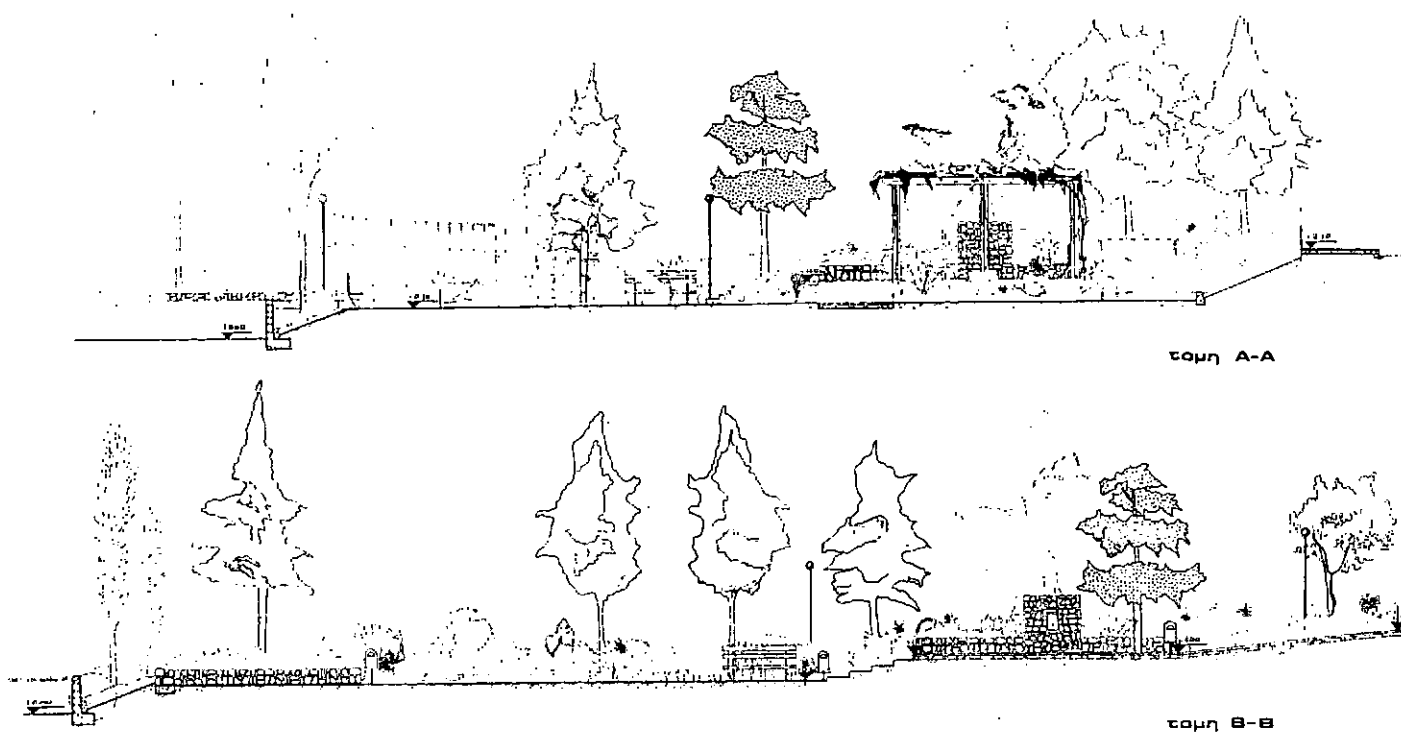
Europe's Square in Holargos (1979) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



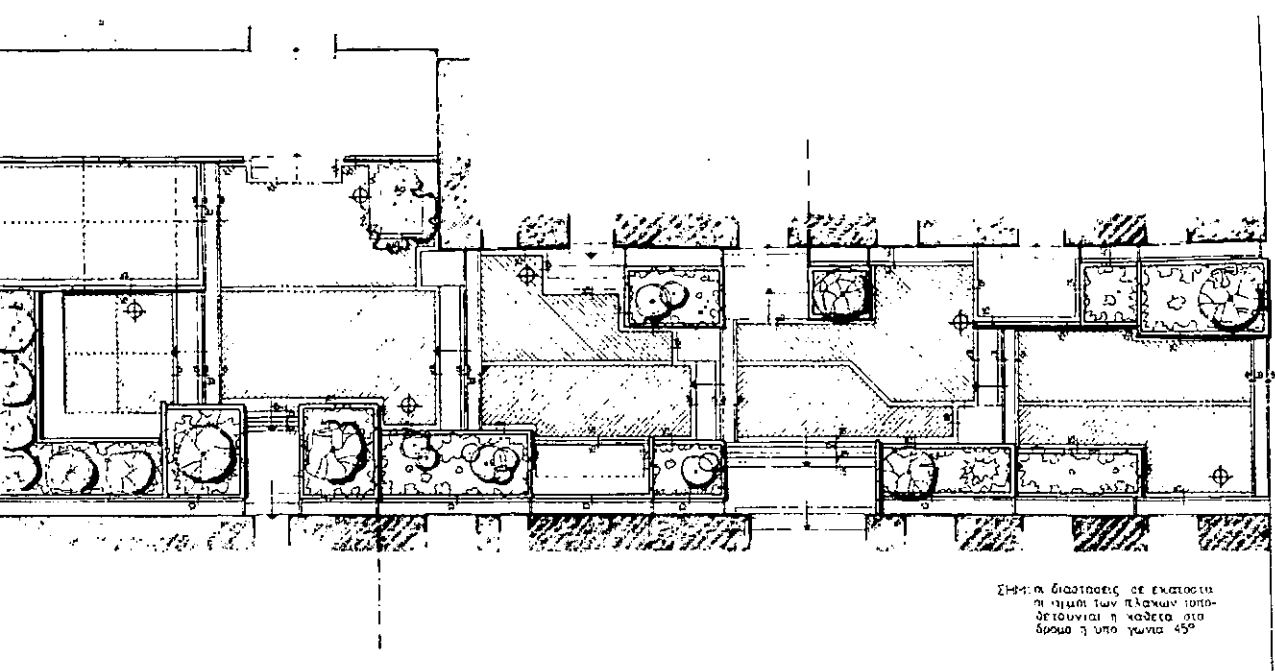
Landscaping in Veikou Grove (1979) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



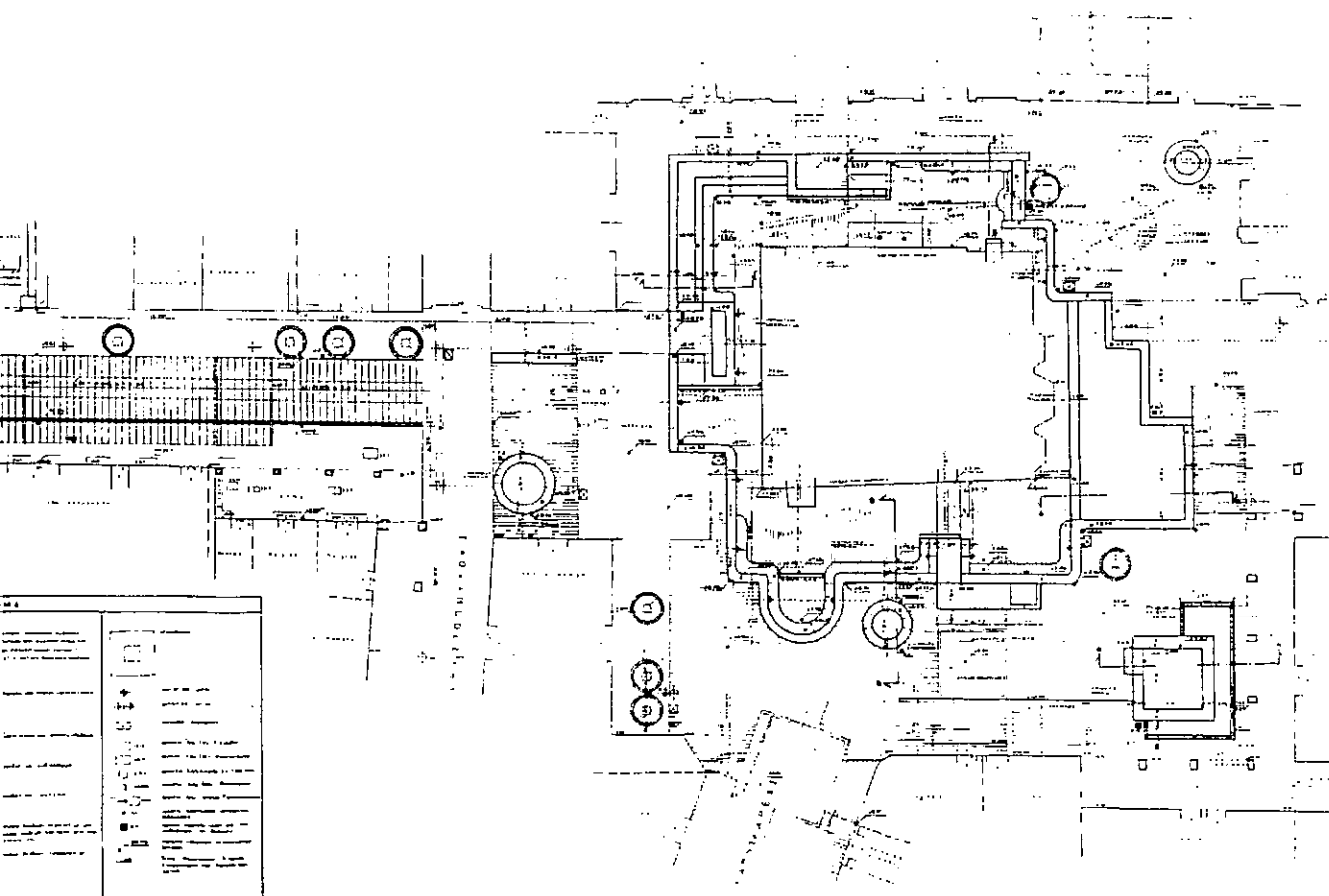
554.Playground in Falirio (1983) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



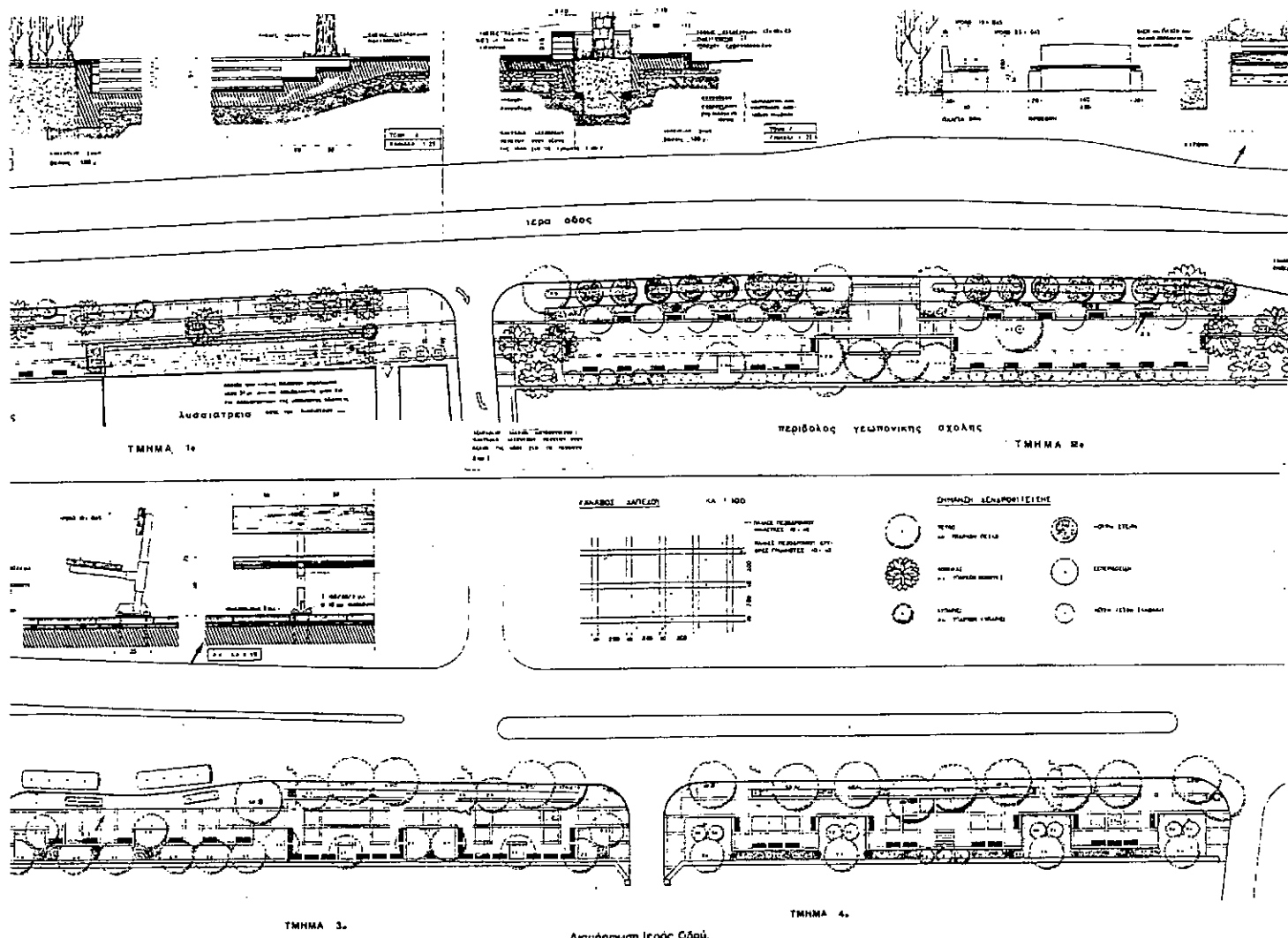
555.Playground in Falirio elevations (1983) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



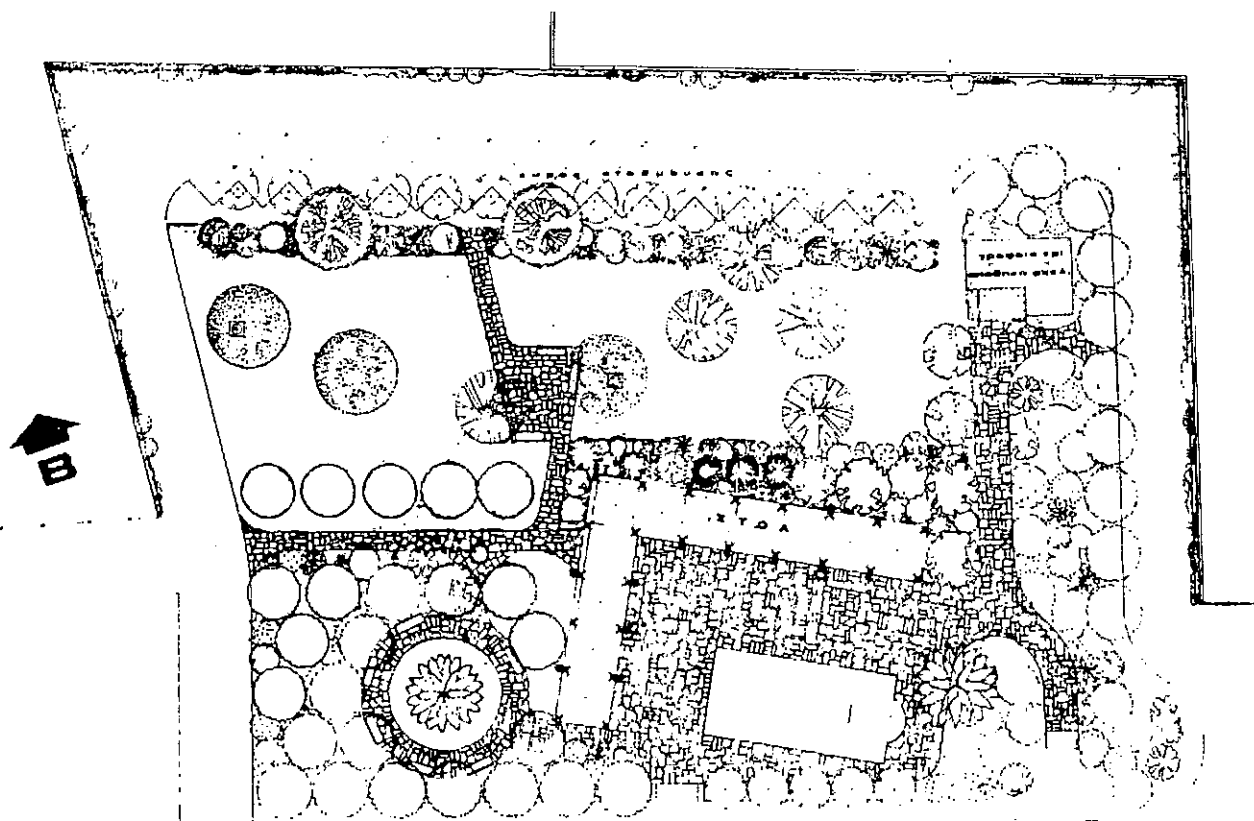
56. Formation of Themistokleous street (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



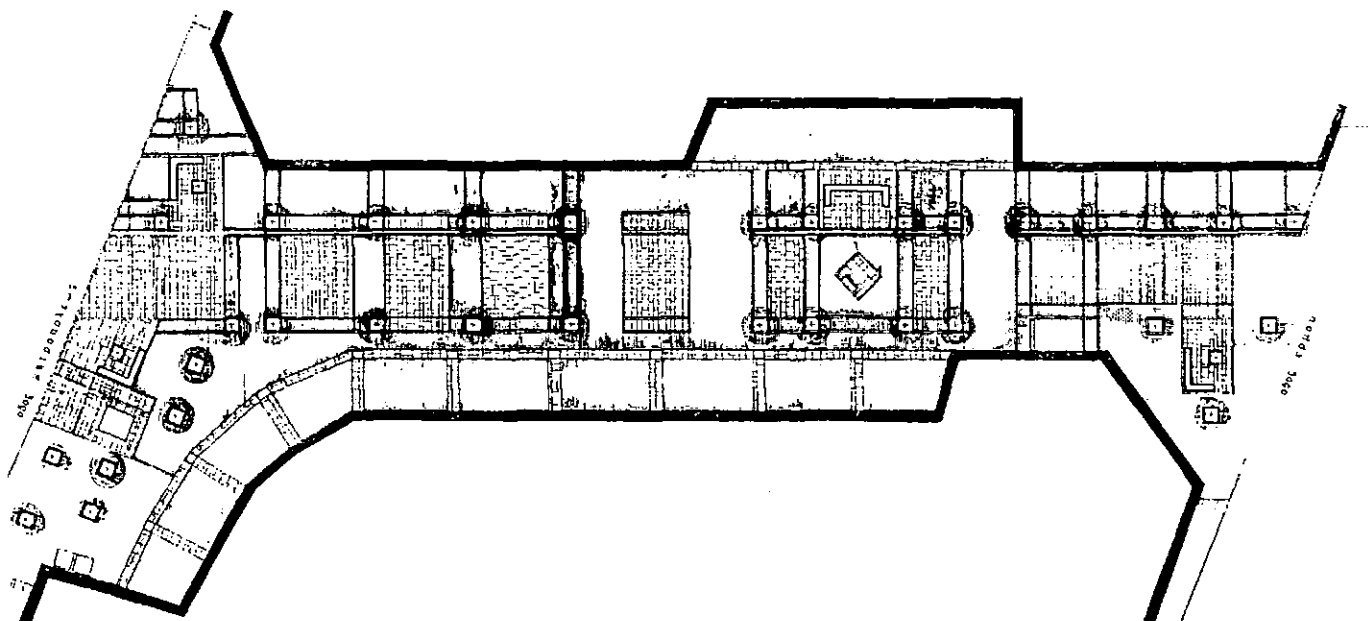
557. Pedestrianization of Ermou street (1995) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



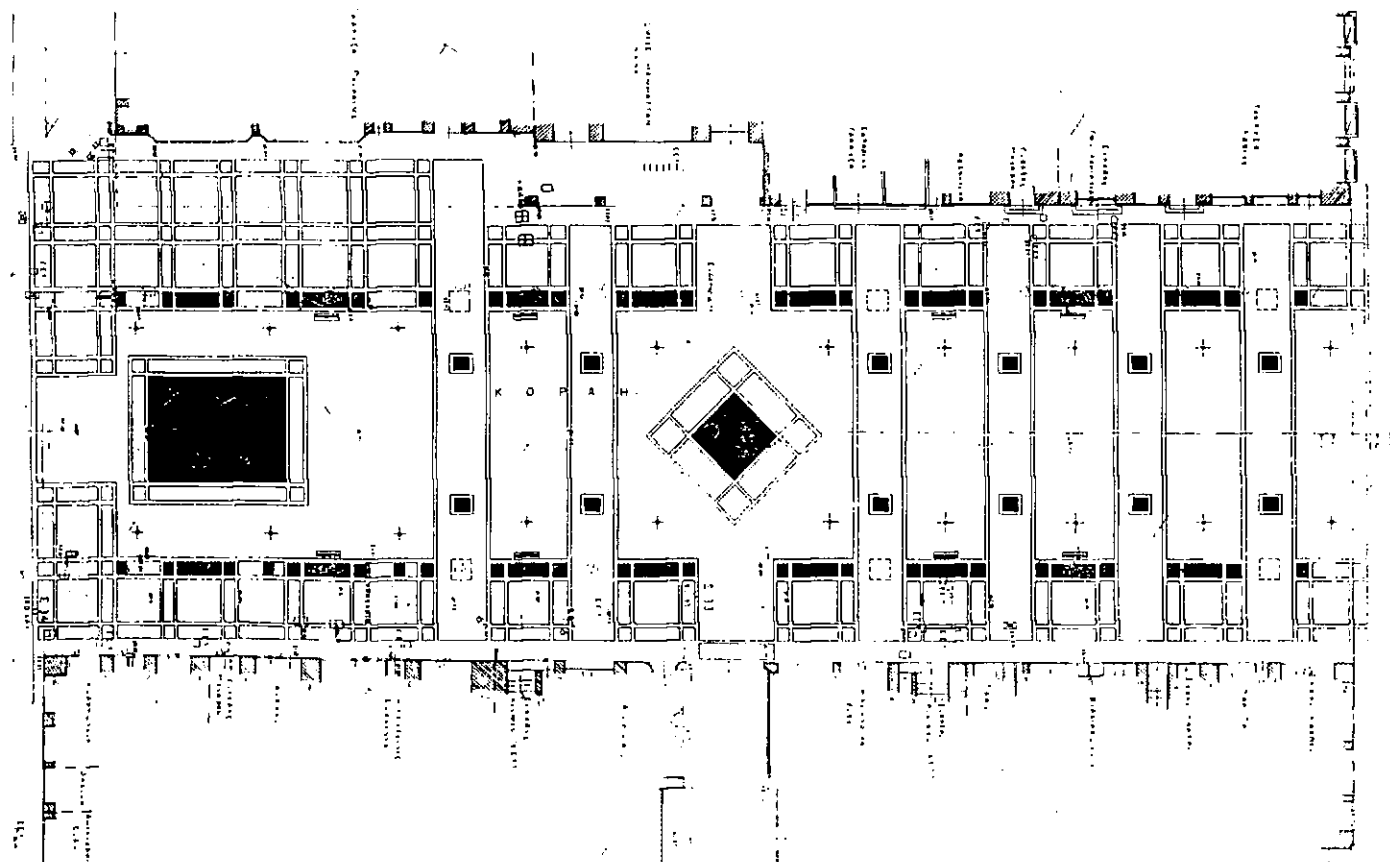
558. Sidewalks in Iera Odos (1975) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



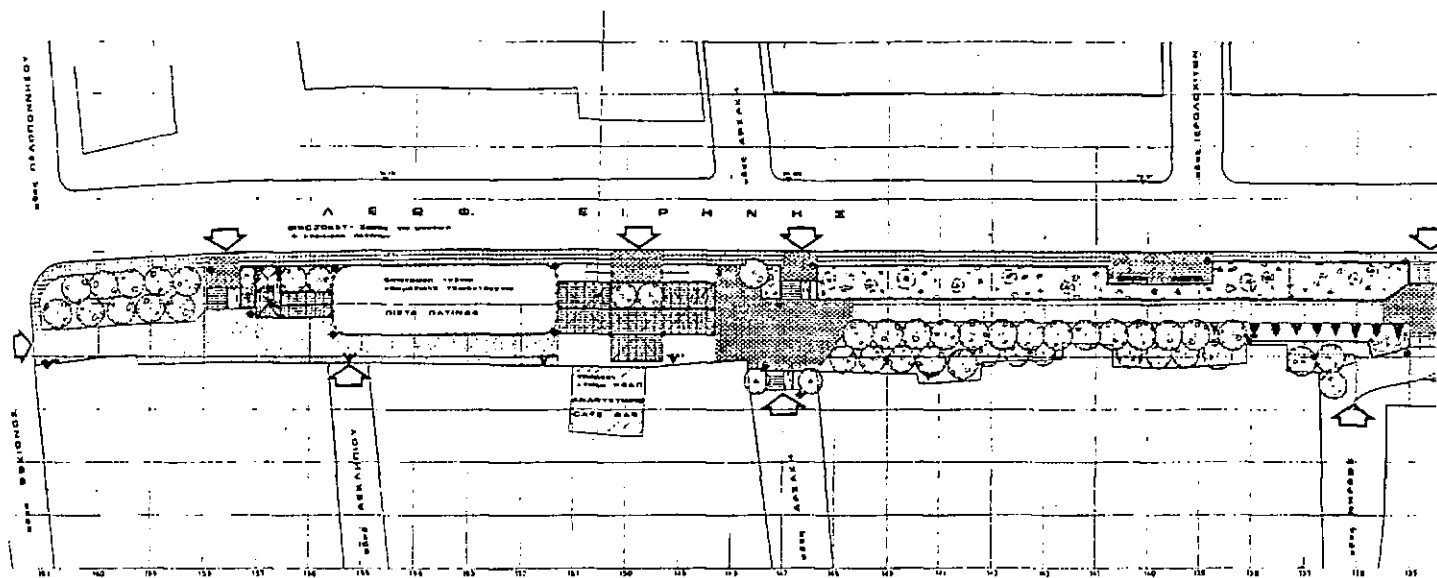
559. An Open space in Iera Odos (1975) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



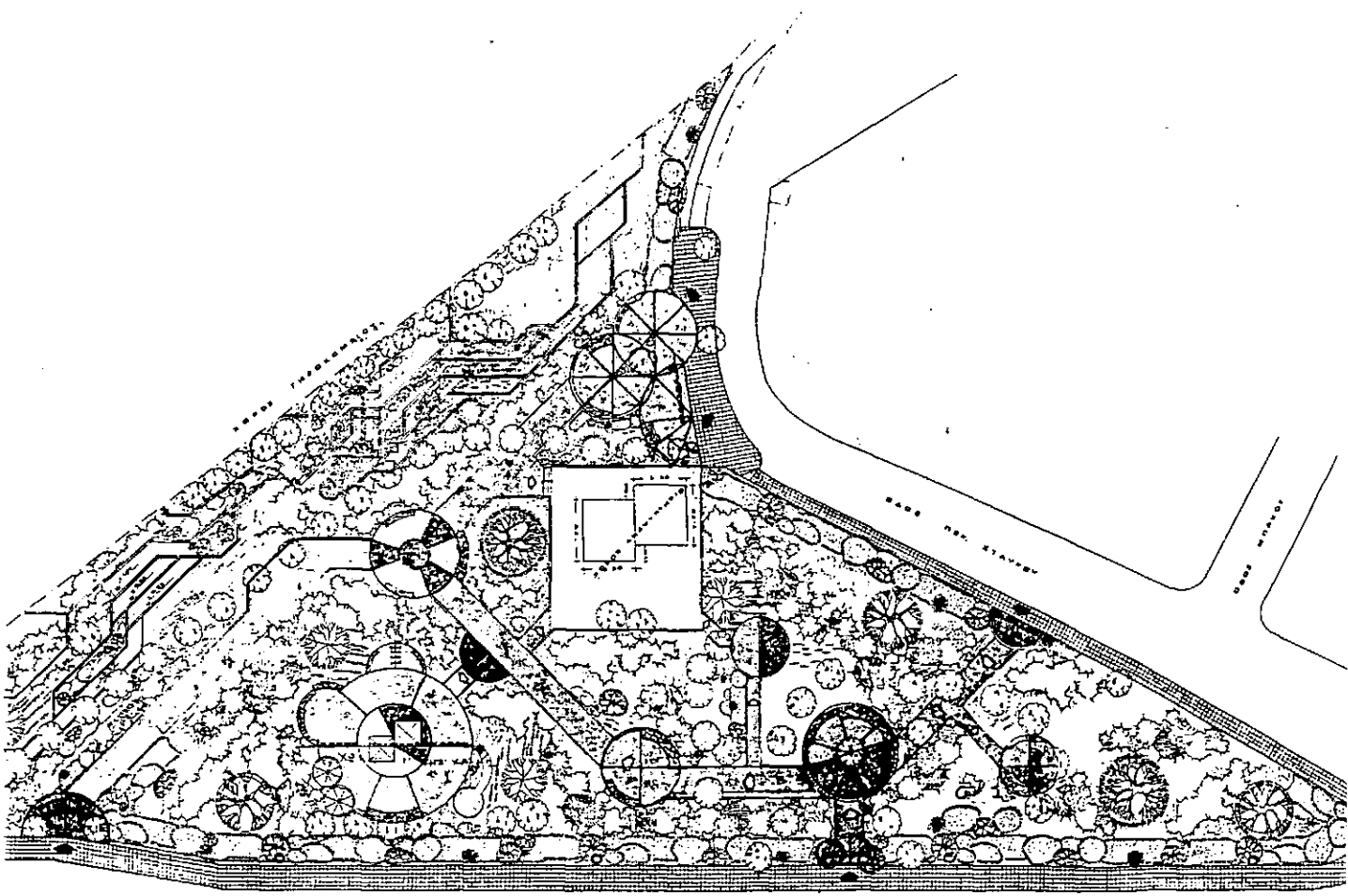
560. Pedestrianization of Evangelistrias street (1982) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



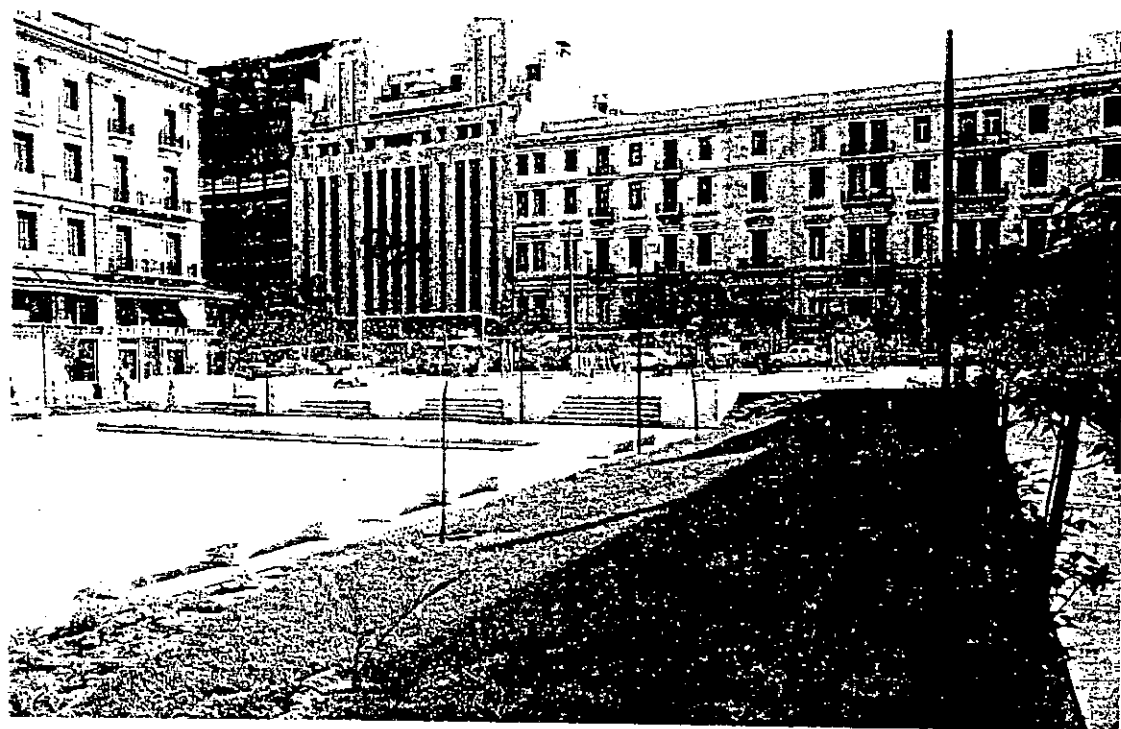
561. Pedestrianization of Korai street (1985) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



562. Formation of former railway's space in Piraeus (1983) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



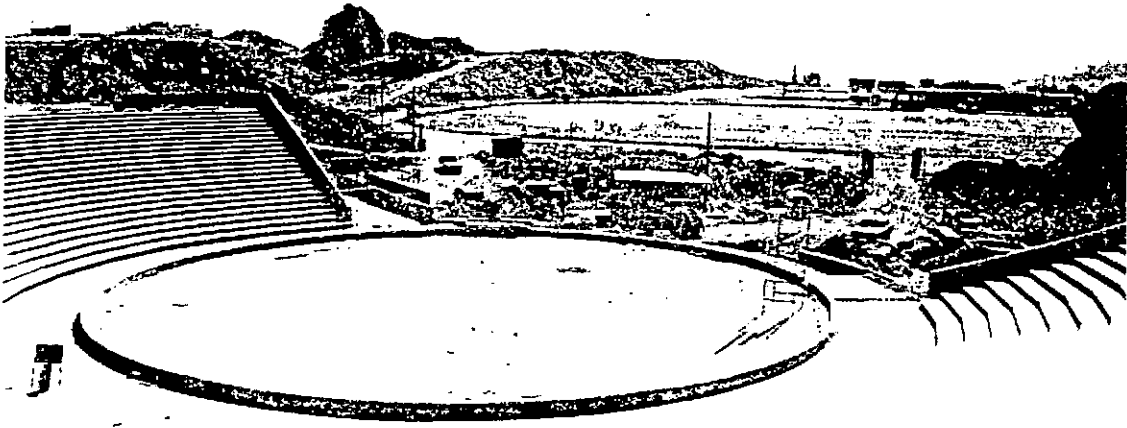
563. Rome's Square in Katechaki junction (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



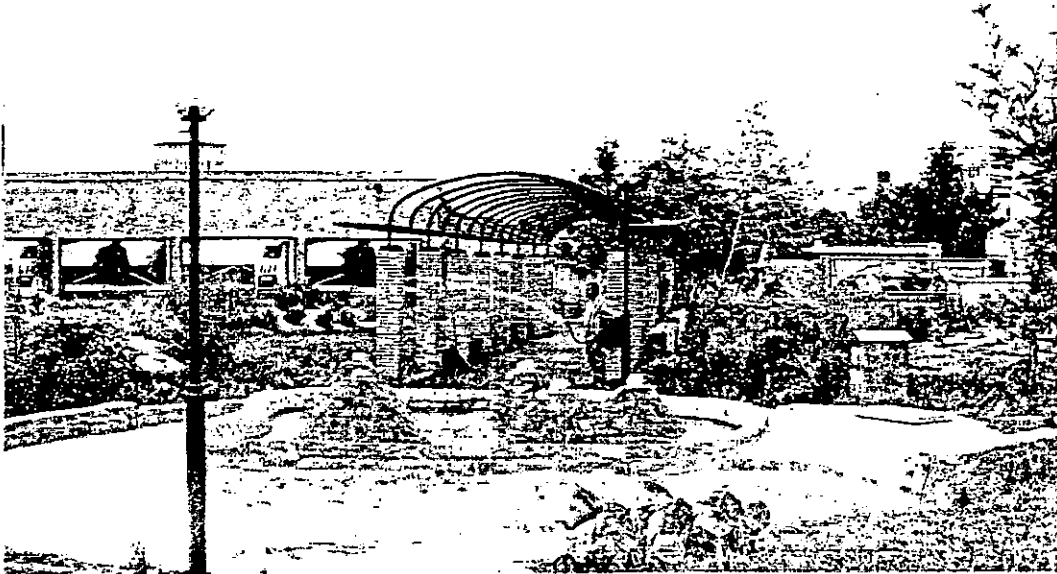
564. Square in Panepistimiou street (1985) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



565. Water Reservoir square, in Nikea district (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



566. Open-air Theater on "Salepitsari" Hill (1986) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



567. Central square in Tavros district (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



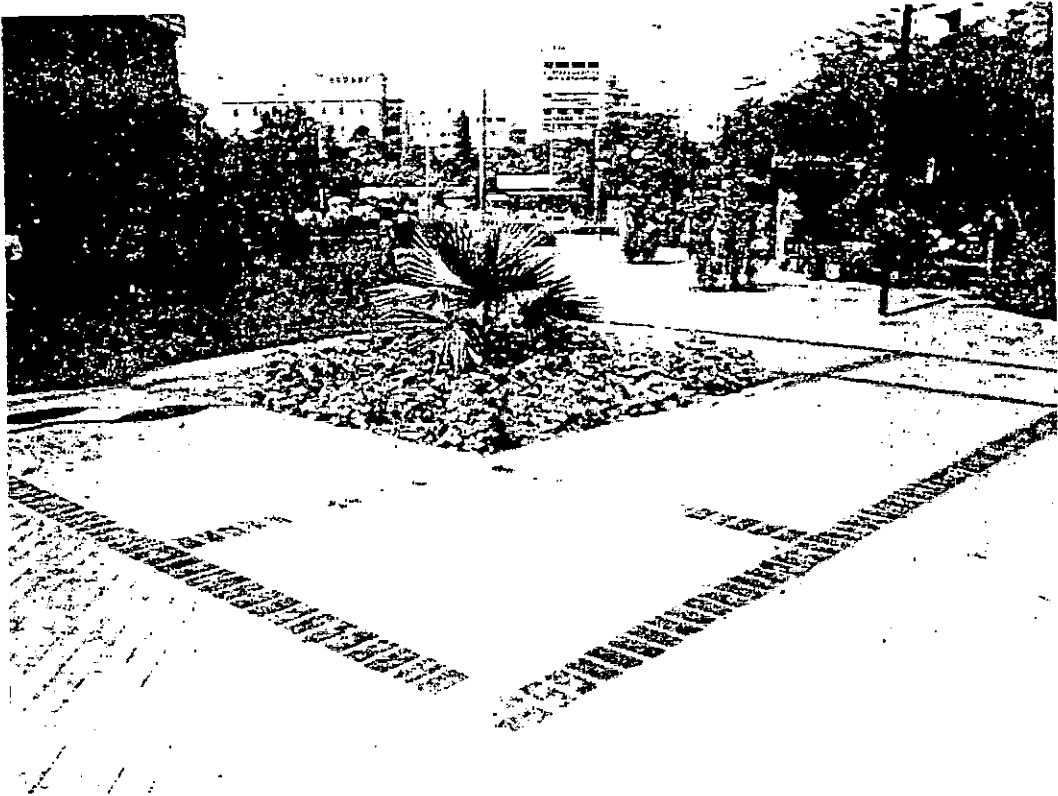
568. Central square in Tavros district (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



569. Formations on Lycabettus Hill (1985) Central square in Tavros district (1987)
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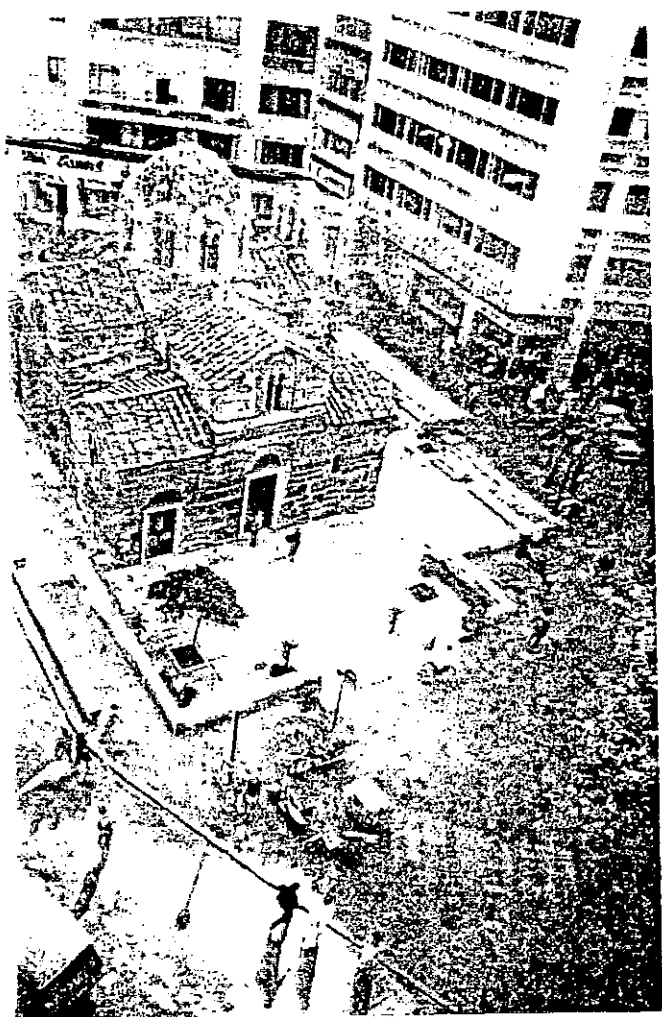
570. Formations on Lycabettus Hill (1985) Central square in Tavros district (1987)
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571. Korai street (1985) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



572. Voukourestiou street (1978) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



573. Ag. Theodori square (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



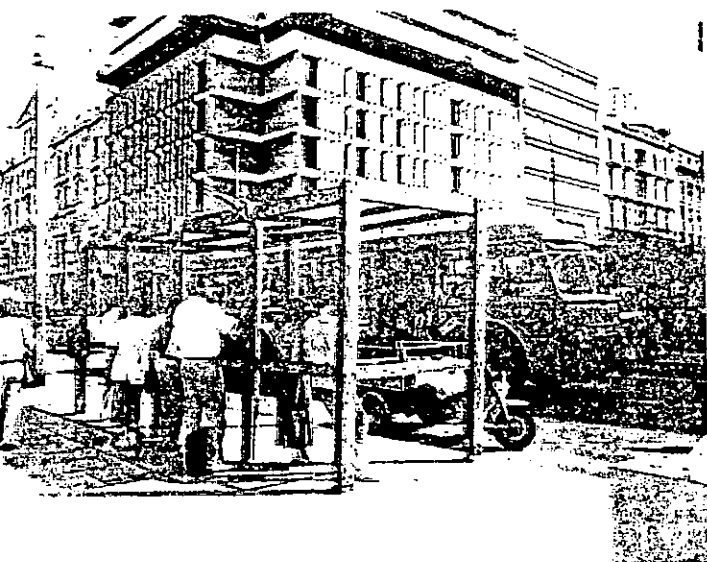
574. Themistocleous street (1985) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



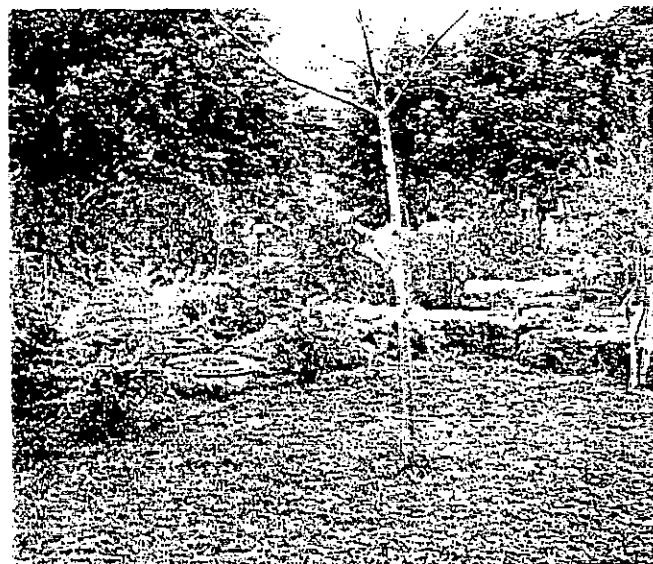
575.Fokionos Negri (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



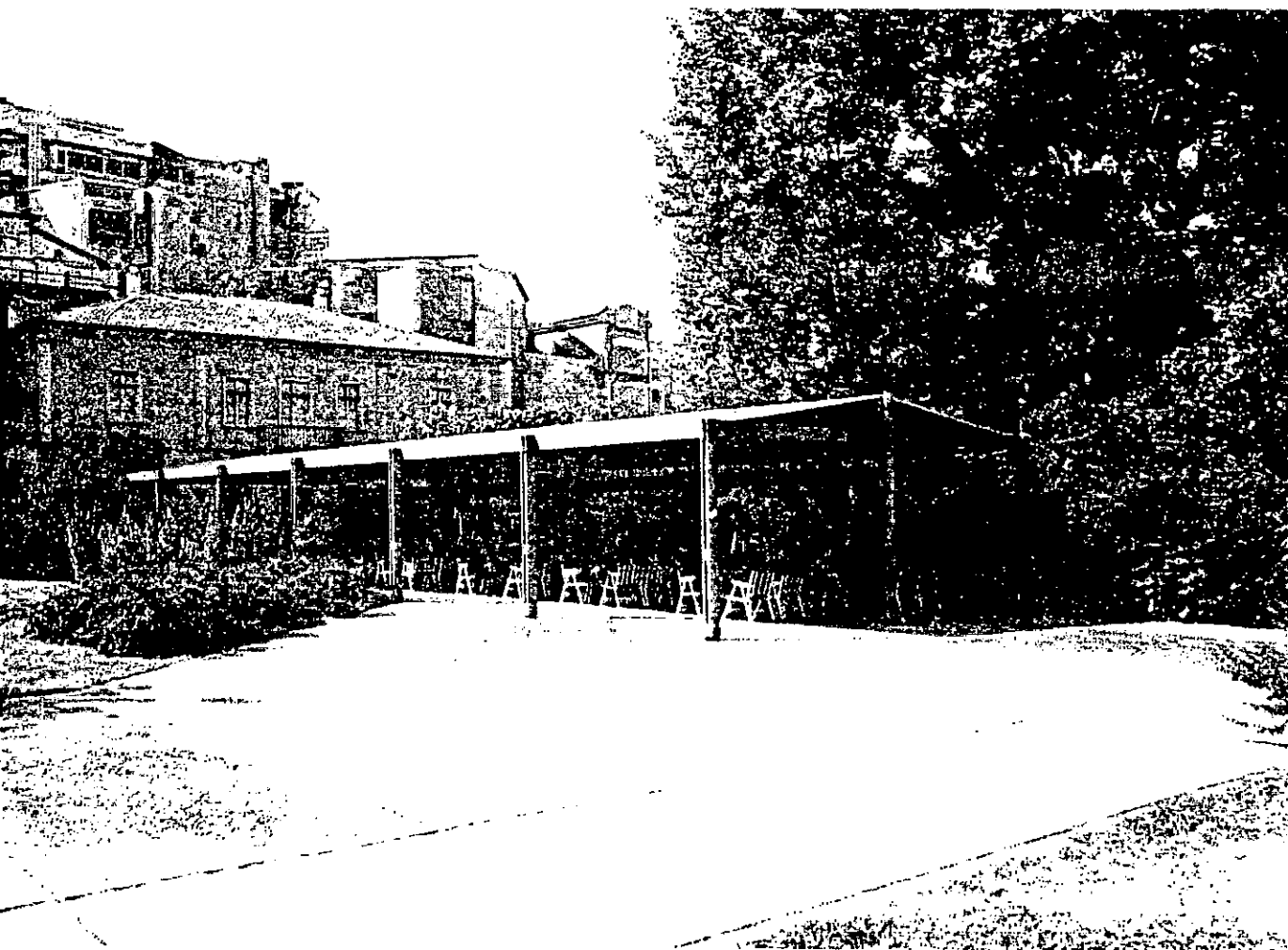
576.Fokionos Negri (1987) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



Klafthmonos Square (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



578. Klafthmonos Square (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment and Public Works)



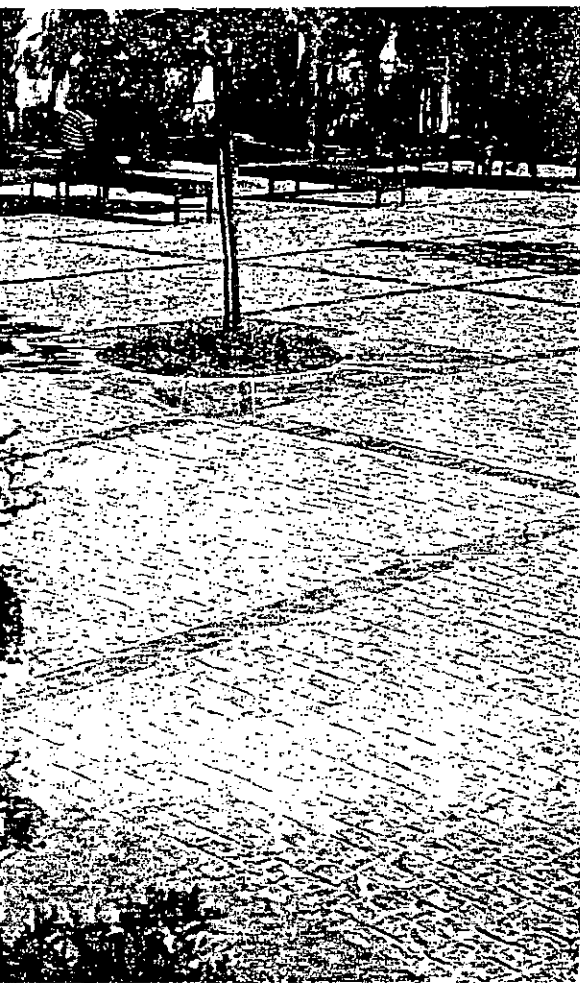
Klafthmonos Square (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



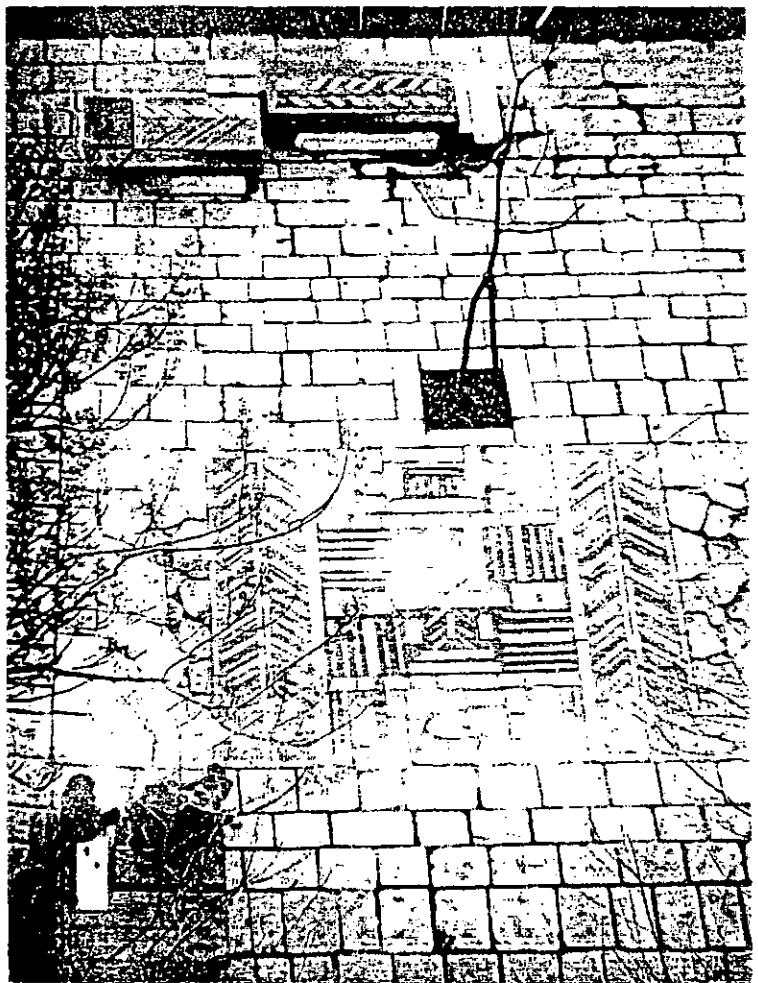
580. Pagrati Grove (1983) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



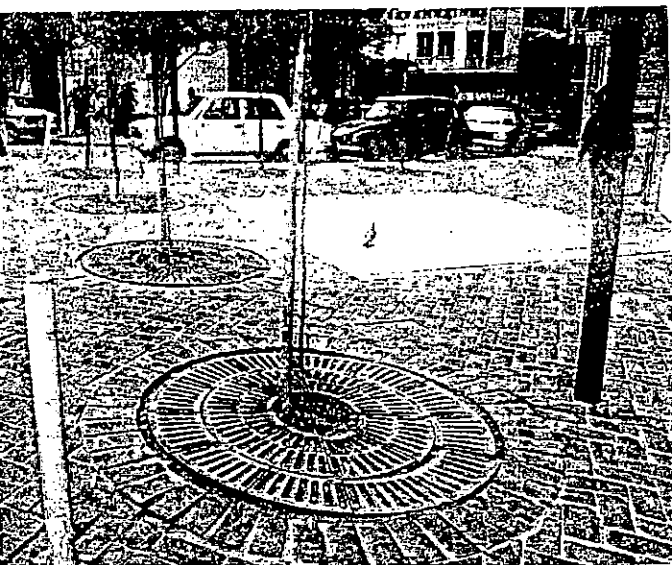
581. Pagrati Grove (1983) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



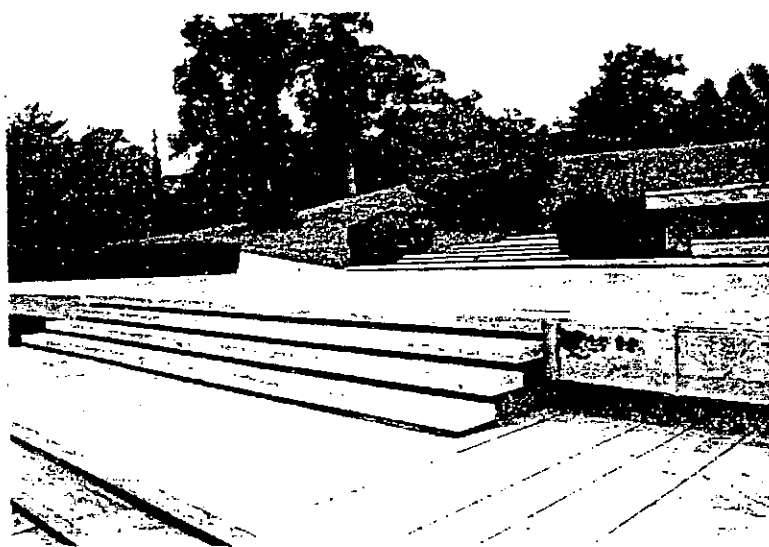
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583. Square in Faliro (1984) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



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585. El. Venizelos' Monument (1980) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



586.Philopappou Hill (restoration) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)



587.Philopappou Hill (restoration) (source: Ministry of Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works)

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